

MEVIT4700 – Screen Histories and Theories

Take home exam, autumn 2019

Monday 9 December at 11:00 – Thursday 12 December at 11:00

Candidates must submit their exam paper in Inspira no later than Thursday 12 December by 11.00 (11AM).

The exam consists of three (3) pages and seven (7) questions. **You must answer two (2) out of the seven (7) questions to answer the exam.**

Before you start writing your exam submission, you must ensure that you have read and understood the University of Oslo's information about cheating:

<http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/cheating/index.html>

You must use a reference style (such as Harvard, MLA, Chicago or APA) throughout your exam submission, and in the bibliography/reference list at the end of the submission. Therefore, you must also read the University's guidelines:

<http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/>

Write **two** essays based on **two** of the following seven questions. In your essays, make sure to draw upon specific examples from the lectures and/or assigned readings. Please make sure to spend an approximately equal amount of words for both essays.

1. In the article "The Cinema of Attraction(s): Early Film Its Spectator and the Avant-Garde," Tom Gunning claims that the "cinema of attractions" dominated cinema until about 1906-1907. What characterizes this way of filmmaking and in what way can it be said that "the cinema of attractions" can still be seen in films of the 21st century?
2. How do we understand, and research, our media past? Compare and contrast two different approaches to screen histories, using the computer and media prior to 1900 (not film, television or digital media) as your examples.
3. Discuss the differences between the cinema screen's and the televisual screen's relationship to the viewer. In your answer, you are encouraged to take into account

different aspects (including materiality, form, sociology, space, and so on), and consider the relationships between them.

4. Discuss how Agamben's concept of the apparatus and Heidegger's concept of enframing (*Gestell*) can be employed in studying and theorizing screens.
 5. What is cinema's relationship to the real? How can the shift to digital be understood to alter this relationship?
 6. Changes to cinema exhibition venues in the late 1920s to the mid-1930s were meant to usher in a new ideal mode of spectatorship. What were the characteristics of this ideal mode of spectatorship? How did it break with earlier modes, and how was spectator behavior meant to be shaped by cinema architecture and design? In your answer, trace the historical evolution of cinema exhibition, explaining how cinema architecture and design impacted spectatorship at critical historical junctures.
 7. Discuss the "magic" of video games and its cultural effects. You may refer back to media older than video games to support your argument.
-

Information about the exam

You must submit your exam in English.

The submitted paper may be up to 10 pages (one page is calculated to 2300 characters without spaces). The front page and reference list do not count towards the 10 pages. Use Times New Roman font in 12pt. and 1.5 line spacing.

The exam must be submitted as a PDF, or it will not be accepted by Inspera. Your front page must include your candidate number, and the name of the file you upload should be your candidate number (eg. 1.pdf). Do not include your name anywhere on your exam submission.

All students are required to have read and familiarized themselves with the University's rules regarding cheating, found here: <http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/cheating/> All submissions will be checked using the University's plagiarism detection software.

Please see our web site for more practical information about exams at the Department of Media and Communication: <http://www.hf.uio.no/imk/english/studies/submission/index.html>

Steffen Krüger can be contacted through e-mail, steffen.kruger@media.uio.no , and will answer questions regarding the exam submitted on December 9 by 13:00. Questions will generally be answered by the end of the day.

The exam results will be published in Studentweb within three weeks. Results will not be given by phone or e-mail.