Sensor guidelines for MEVIT/JOUR4000 autumn 2019

The assignment

Use 12-point font (Times, Times New Roman, Calibri) and 1,5 line spacing

The project description should be 5 pages long (not counting the reference/literature list) and must include:

1. Working title
2. Description of the research topic and area of interest
3. Literature review [review of relevant *academic* literature]
4. Research questions and/or hypotheses for your master's thesis
5. Methods and information about empirical data/material
6. Ethics: a brief account of ethical issues.
7. Reference-list with the literature used in the project description (must include at least 5 journal articles).
8. Literature-list: overview of the self-selected literature (400-600 pages). This list must include at least 5 journal articles (can be the same as in 7 above)

General requirements to pass the term paper (project description)

- The project description is readable and understandable. The text is coherent (not just bullet-points or an early draft)
- The project description shows that the student has a basic grasp of research design and the project description genres. The different parts are connected, and the text is balanced between the different parts.
- The project description must be focused on a specific study and should demonstrate that the student is able to carry out that study, within the time frame of an MA and using the indicated methods/approaches.
- The project description includes all eight items in the assignment (or seven, if reference-list includes the required self-selected literature. The order of the items can be somewhat different from the assignment (e.g. ok if students introduce RQs before literature-review).
- Formal requirements are in place: language, length (+/- 10%), documentation-style/references

Specific requirements

1. *Working title:* The title is understandable, covers the subject area.
2. *Description of research topic or area of interest*: The topic is described coherently and its relevance for media and communication, journalism, or political communication is clear.

3. *Literature review* should provide a scholarly/academic context for the thesis. A general requirement is that the literature review includes at least 5 relevant journal articles. Preferably a synthesizing and thematic review of literature, but describing key points from each of the cited works in a consecutive manner is acceptable. Students shall demonstrate that they can find relevant literature and account for some key ideas, topics, and/or types of studies in the relevant field(s). A good review is systematic, discusses the literature independently, and uses the review to narrow down the topic and/or research questions.

4. *Research questions and/or hypotheses:* The project description must have pertinent research questions. The questions/hypotheses may need to be refined, but a list of (more or less) random questions is not acceptable. Beware of research questions that are too broad or normative, and which do not point to a specific investigation. It should be possible to start the project with the research question or hypotheses listed.

5. *An indication of possible methods and empirical data* must be included, at least on a cursory level. Methods and material must be specific to the project and not just general comments about methodology.

6. *Ethics:* A brief account of ethical issues must be included. Issues will vary according to the methods chosen, but all should show some ethical awareness.

7. *Reference-list* with the literature used in the project description must be included. List should be formatted correctly and following chosen documentation style (e.g. APA, Harvard, Chicago). This list must include at least 5 journal articles.

8. *Literature-list:* Full list of literature representing 400-600 pages of self-selected literature, i.e. including literature not necessarily referred to in the project description.