

# MEVIT3520 -Mediated Faces and Identities

Take home exam, autumn 2019

Monday December 16th at 11:00 – Thursday December 19th at 11:00

**Read the assignment and the instructions below carefully.**

This exam contains two (2) assignments. You are to answer one of the following two assignments (either assignment 1 or assignment 2): Your submission should be a total of approximately 10 pages, excluding the bibliography.

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/>

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**Exam questions:**

## **Assignment 1: Imagined communities and online identity formation**

Despite the fact that it was coined before the invention of the World Wide Web, Benedict Anderson's concept of "imagined community" has been adapted to Internet research and continues to be used as a theoretical tool to elucidate online identity formation.

**Examination question 1a:** Define Benedict Anderson's concept of "imagined communities" and present examples of recent research that has adopted this concept to the study of online identity formation.

**Examination question 1b:** Discuss to what extent the concept of imagined communities continues to be relevant today, including its strength and weaknesses when it comes to understanding the specificities involved in mediated identity formation.

Use examples and refer to the syllabus where relevant.

## **Assignment 2: The male gaze, objectification and othering**

In the now classical essay “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” from 1975, Laura Mulvey points to the way that mainstream film “reflects, reveals and plays on the straight, socially established interpretation of sexual difference” (Mulvey 1999, p. 833), and thus to the way that film contributes to the positioning of women in patriarchal culture as “the male other” (Mulvey 1999, p. 834).

**Examination question 2a:** Define Laura Mulvey’s concept of “male gaze” and explain what is implied by the idea that women in mainstream films are put on display as objects for the male gaze.

**Examination question 2b:** Discuss to what extent the concept of the male gaze continues to be relevant today and whether it could also serve to elucidate other forms of objectification and othering beyond sexual difference.

Use examples and refer to the syllabus where relevant.

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### ***Information about the exam***

*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. The exam must be submitted as a PDF, or it will not be accepted by Inspira. Your front page must include your candidate number, and the name of the file you upload should be your candidate number (eg. 1234.pdf). Do not include your name anywhere on your exam submission.*

*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>*

Aurora Hoel can be contacted through e-mail, [aurora.hoel@media.uio.no](mailto:aurora.hoel@media.uio.no) and will answer any questions regarding the exam submitted on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of December between 11:00-12:00

**The exam results will be published in Studentweb normally around three weeks after the deadline. Results will not be given by phone or e-mail.**