

## Grading guidelines MEVIT4010

The assignment

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

Term paper. The term paper is the **project description** for the master's thesis. The project proposal should be 5 pages, excluding the list of references, and must include:

1. Working title
2. Theme or area of interest
3. Theory/literature review
4. Research questions and/or hypotheses
5. Method and information about empirical data/material
6. Research ethics
7. Reference-list with the literature used in the project description (must include at least 5 journal articles)

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 items in the assignment. 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 (ca +/- 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 / political communication / screen culture 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 / RQ and not just general comments about methodology.
6. *Research 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, and an indication of whether approval of a data management plan or [notification to SIKT for personal data](#) is necessary (Student should have completed the [e-learning course about data protection and GDPR](#) during the course, which is mandatory for all MA students who will collect personal data at UiO in their research projects).
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 peer-reviewed journal articles.