

Grading guidelines MEVIT4010

Benchmarks during the course

As part of the course, the students who submit an exam have produced and had accepted these assignments:

- 1) three brief outlines for a possible master thesis theme
- 2) description and assessment of a self-selected existing UiO/media studies master thesis
- 3) a literature review of five scientific articles relevant to a self-selected possible master thesis theme
- 4) a draft outline for a master project

The draft outline was assessed with a view to:

- whether a full draft had been submitted
- concreteness of research question(s)
- overall clarity of writing

Assessment criteria

Two main and general criteria should be used in the assessment:

- whether one can tell from all the sections of the outline that real work has been put into making them concrete and informed by relevant research. The students have been taught library and data base work: they should be expected to have done some.
- general command of academic writing: clarity and consistency of writing and argument. MEVIT4010 teaching has emphasised basic writing skills in the teaching and assessments of submissions.

The following more specific expectations have been communicated to the students:

- The students need to use APA or one of the other major referencing systems throughout. One or a few missing or faulty references is not enough to fail but major inconsistencies or failures to apply a referencing system can be.
- The literature review should not simply be copied into the project outline but rather used as a starting point for the theory and methodology sections, where at least some knowledge of wider traditions and scholarly bodies of work will be expected.
- The project outline need not be written on the basis of extensive engagement with empirical material, but where such material can be easily accessed, signs of some initial engagement will be expected.

The course leads up to individual supervision and therefore initiates a longer process. Also, supervision in MEVIT4010 is more often than not done by non-specialists in the relevant media studies subfield. Such elements as research questions, theoretical and methodological framework as well as precise empirical materials thus need not be finally settled as the

candidate submits. There should be space for more reading, for redirection and reconsideration, and this must be reflected in MEVIT4010 assessment.

Finally the course have tried to communicate to the students throughout that we do not aim to be highly formalistic, although procedures cannot be ignored. If a project outline is the product of real and capable work by an engaged mind, then the student should be ready for an individual supervisor - unlike students whose writing is consistently unclear/simplistic and those who clearly have not put the necessary work in throughout.