

## MEVIT4117 Term paper instructions

The main assessment task in MEVIT4117 is a **10-page research essay** (font Times New Roman size 12 or equivalent, 1.5 spacing, and standard margin settings in Word). The term paper is graded. **To qualify for the term paper, you must complete the non-graded in-class group assessment.**

You may choose both the topic and approach for your essay, as long as they engage with the themes of the course – form and formal analysis (aesthetics, narrative etc.), genre, representation, global tv, critical discourses (feminist criticism, authorship etc.), online TV. You may also choose to combine themes (e.g. genre and representation, authorship and aesthetics etc.). You must select case studies from contemporary television to illustrate your points. You may choose to focus your essay on one series or to use a few, depending on your research question and method.

Your essay **must** include the following elements:

1. A clearly stated **research question**.
2. A **thesis statement** that answers the research question.
3. **Textual analysis** from examples of contemporary TV fiction.
4. Engagement with a **minimum of seven scholarly sources** (rather than mere citation). It is expected you will use those from the reading list that are relevant to your topic, however, as this is a research exercise you must move beyond the course materials as well. You are free to use non-academic sources, and at times it is productive to do so, however they should come in addition to the scholarly materials. i.e. a minimum of 7 scholarly sources plus any additional materials you find relevant.
5. Clarity of expression. Correct spelling and grammar are required. Please proofread your work!
6. A clear essay **structure** that sustains your argument.
7. A clearly articulated **methodological approach**.
8. Correct referencing throughout the essay and a full reference list/bibliography. You may use whichever style guide you are most familiar with as long as you do so correctly and consistently. Academic dishonesty—even if unintentional—is a very serious issue. If you are unsure of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the information here: [Sources and citations \(Links to an external site.\)](#) **Referencing is not included in the 10-page limit.**
9. **DO NOT** include any personally identifiable information in your submission.

When preparing your paper, you should spend some time thinking about and researching your topic before you decide on your exact research question. Your research question should be specific enough to be answered within the 10-page limit and nuanced enough to be original and interesting to your reader. If you're simply agreeing with others it is likely your research question requires some revision. Do not just summarise what others have said, instead integrate your research with your argument. Your marker will likely be

familiar with what has been written already, so they want to hear what you have to say about it!

You must ensure that you answer your research question in full. This means you don't just state your answer, but you also justify exactly why this is your position. You must also make sure that your method is appropriate for your research question and that this is evident to your reader.

Your conclusion should not simply restate your argument. A good term paper conclusion moves beyond wrapping things up—it explicates the importance of your argument/ findings within the broader context of your topic.

You may include images in your essay. If you choose to do so, make sure that they serve a function and are not merely decorative. Images should be correctly cited.

You will be graded in accordance with the MA thesis grading criteria at IMK. As every research essay is a mini thesis, these grading brackets are applicable for this task. In the grading process for this essay, the guidelines are employed in proportion with the task's smaller scope. [Grade guidelines \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Questions about this task should be posted in the dedicated discussion board.

Good luck!