

Exam grading guidelines for *Popular Music Studies* MUS2605 - 10 credit points

General information:

Information on course content, learning outcome, teaching and examination:

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imv/MUS2605/>

Grading scale: A – F

<https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/grading-system/index.html>

Course content:

This course gives an introduction to central questions and topics in popular music research. There is an emphasis on cultural theory, approaches to musical analysis, gender and identity theory, aspects of groove, sound, and production, as well as general perspectives on the study of popular music.

Learning outcome:

On completion of the course, students will:

- be familiar with central questions and terminology in popular music research
- be acquainted with different analytical approaches to popular music
- be able to apply analytical models across styles and genres
- be acquainted with different approaches to popular music in cultural theory
- have improved their skills in making written and oral presentations
- have been trained in developing research questions and using them as a basis for written texts
- be able to relate the course literature to relevant research traditions

Examination: Home essay (3 days)

The final examination is a three-days home essay on a given topic. The essay is assessed according to a scale from A to E for passing, and F for failure.

Essays must:

- have a length of approx. 10 pages á 2300 characters per page, not counting spaces, figures, appendix, or reference list
- be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, or English

- be typed on a computer with the font Times New Roman, font size 12, and a line spacing of 1.5
- have a cover page that specifies
 - the course code and title
 - semester and year
 - your candidate number (do NOT write your name on the essay).
 - which question you have chosen to answer
 - total number of words
- include the following:
 - introduction, which includes a clearly formulated research question and focus; reasons for why you have chosen this research question and focus (including a short explanation of background/context and relevance), and a presentation of the structure of the text
 - main section (organized along several well-defined sections) where you develop your analysis, discussion, and arguments
 - conclusion, where you point back to the research question and sum up your main contributions and arguments
- demonstrate analytical skills and critical reflection regarding both text (i.e. sound, groove, lyrics, and the audiovisual) and context (i.e. the key topics discussed during the course).
- demonstrate awareness, knowledge, and a critical understanding of the key concepts and issues discussed in the course.
- demonstrate familiarity with the readings of the course and show the ability to apply all relevant texts in the analysis. (The candidate is also encouraged to include supplementary literature, either from the optional reading list or self-chosen literature).
- clarify what is the candidate's own thinking and what she/he has read elsewhere. The sources must be cited accurately (surname, year, and page numbers where relevant) and all the sources must be listed at the end of the paper. The candidate is not required to use one specific reference style, but it should be consistent throughout the paper.

The obligatory mid-way assignment (2 pages) and oral presentation (5 min) must be passed in order to take the exam.