KIN4010 Grading Guidelines Fall 2025

Exam: A term paper of 4000-7000 words plus a list of references.

Submission deadline: December 11 at 11:00 AM

The paper must account for and discuss the choice of methodologies, and the process of data collection related to the master's thesis. It should also include reflections on this process based on at least one relevant academic publication related to research methodology.

Grades are awarded on a pass/fail scale.

KIN4010 is a course with no mandatory teaching. As part of the course, students are supposed to identify and collect data necessary for their thesis work and read and summarize literature that critically assesses the research methodologies they intend to apply. They must have had at least *three meetings with their MA supervisor* to discuss the methodology and methods of data collection for their MA project, and they must have submitted a full draft of the term paper to their supervisor before taking the exam.

As a prerequisite for taking KIN4010 the students must have *completed* the course on how to study Chinese culture and society (KIN4510). KIN4510 introduced key methods for conducting China studies and associated considerations regarding ethics and quality, including approaches from history, culture studies, and the social sciences.

Any overlap with other exams must be referenced. Keep in mind that this is the case with the Ma thesis as well, so this exam cannot be included eg. as a methods chapter in the thesis.

Grading criteria

Independent work and originality

- The term paper must be the student's independent and original work. All ideas, arguments, and data drawn from others must be referenced.
- Any overlap with other exams must be referenced. Keep in mind that this the Ma thesis

Research topic and question

- The term paper should present a clearly defined question related to methodology.

Literature

- The term paper should demonstrate a good comprehension of methodology literature (at least one item) relevant to the research topic.
- The term paper should draw on relevant academic literature to develop its arguments.

Data and source

- The term paper should be based on at least one relevant academic publication regarding research methodology.

Methodology

- The term paper should provide a clear description of the methodology of the student's MA thesis, including the selection/sampling of research subjects, the data collection process, data treatment and methods of analysis.
- The term paper should account for why the methods were chosen.
- The term paper should provide reflections on the advantages and limitations of the selected methods, and about the implications from methodological choices for the academic quality of the MA thesis (according to quality criteria relevant for the MA topic).
- If relevant considering the MA topic, the term paper should provide reflections on the ethical implications of methodological choices.

Concept and Theory

- An outstanding term paper should integrate or identify academic concepts and theories in its argumentation. This, however, is not a compulsory requirement.

Writing

- The term paper should have a clear structure by using headlines and subtitles.
- The term paper should use clear academic English.

Reference

- The term paper should use a consistent style of academic reference with both in-text citations and a list of references at the end of the paper.

Use of AI

- The term paper must include a statement of how you used AI in your research and writing. The statement does not count towards the word count. The UiO resource for what to include in the AI statement and how to use AI responsibly: https://www.uio.no/tjenester/ki/