Sensorveiledning, ENG4152 Varieties of English Texts

Generic guidelines
The exam is a term paper on a topic chosen by the candidate, but approved by the teacher. The language of the term paper is English. In the assessment both content and language will be considered, as well as the appropriate presentation of quotations, references and linguistic examples. The evaluation (and marking) of the candidate's performance on the exam follow the underlying principles regarding analytical skills, judgement and independent thinking, according to the general evaluation criteria specified by "Universitets- og høgskolerådet".

The content of the paper, as well as the assessment of it, should reflect the stated aims and learning outcome of the course, namely that the students should be able to

- discuss major differences between spoken and written English registers,
- compare the ways in which different kinds of texts are constructed to communicate the intended message,
- describe reasons why linguistic form varies across text types,
- develop and discuss analyses of example texts with fellow students, present your own ideas for a case study and respond to the projects presented by others,
- conduct a case study of selected linguistic features in one or more types of text.

The term paper should take up approx. 10 standard pages excluding front matter and references. (One standard page = a page of running text with 1.5 line spacing and a 12 pt font, c. 400 words.). The *minimum* acceptable length is 6 standard pages (plus front matter and references, 2400 words).

The candidates are free to choose their own material and method, but should consult the course teacher. The main options discussed in the course are close-reading and corpus-based/corpus-assisted analysis. Various theoretical perspectives should be available to the students from their course reading. However, to reflect the content/aims of the course, the paper needs to include a functional analysis of authentic linguistic material with regard to the register, genre or style of the text(s). It is important that candidates show that they have understood the theoretical concepts and the principles of discourse analysis / register analysis by applying the theory to the texts.

The term paper is expected to follow normal conventions of academic writing with respect to form, structure and the appropriate use of sources and references. Students are expected to refer to their course reading in their papers, and they should also be able to find other secondary sources relevant to their topic. The students have been made aware of the university's rules for citation (and against plagiarism) as stated at http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/ and are expected to abide by these. The students may use different styles of references (we do not require the use of one specific style), although they have been told that an author-date style is preferred, and that the list of references should be alphabetic by author's last name.

The students have been given the following list of elements that a term paper should normally contain, although this need not be a template for the structure of the paper.

- **Introduction**. State your aim briefly and give the reasons why the subject of your paper is worth writing about.

- **Theoretical background / literature review**: Give a brief, critical survey of earlier work relevant to your subject.
- **Aim and scope**. State your research question more precisely. Tell the reader what aspect(s) you intend to investigate as well as what will be left out.
- **Material**. State the nature and limitations of your data. Consider whether the nature of your data is likely to affect the results in an important way.
- **Method**. (a) State along what lines your investigation will be conducted. Mention any research tools you use (e.g. corpus software, statistical tools …)
  (b) Define your terms and principles of classification.
- **Analysis and discussion**. Present the results of your study of your text(s) or corpus material, and then interpret your findings (functional interpretation of linguistic features). You may want to present some results in the form of tables or graphs. Focus on one aspect at a time. Support your arguments with reference to the data and give examples.
- **Conclusion**. To what extent have you been able to answer your research question(s)? Give a brief summary of your results and state the conclusions you can draw on the basis of them. To what extent do your conclusions agree with what was known before? If some of your results are inconclusive, e.g. because you have not had enough material, say so. You may also indicate what aspects or areas require further study.