

## MEVIT1110 – Audiovisual Aesthetics

Take home exam, autumn 2017

**Monday November 13 at 11:00 – Thursday November 16 at 11:00**

The exam will be published on the semester page for the course on Monday 13 November at 11:00. Candidates must submit their exam paper in Inspira no later than Thursday 16 November by 11.00 (11AM).

**Read the assignment and the instructions below carefully.**

The exam consists of five (5) pages and three questions. You must answer **two out of the three**. Each of the two answers will count for 50% of the grade, and they should be about equal in length, approximately 5 pages each.

Be sure to answer all subquestions (a, b, c... et c.) as one essay. In other words, it should be one complete text, rather than smaller paragraphs answering the subquestions individually.

Before you start writing your exam submission, you must ensure that you have read and understood the University of Oslo's information about cheating:

<http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/cheating/index.html>

You must use a reference style (such as MLA, Chicago or APA) throughout your exam submission, and in the bibliography/reference list at the end of the submission. Be thorough and precise in your use of citations.

You must also read the University's guidelines:

<http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/>

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**Question 1:**

The below image is a photograph, not a film still. It is shot, however, in what many consider to be a distinctly cinematic style, on a studio lot, employing equipment normally used in film production and with the support of a crew that ordinarily works on film sets – both in front and behind the camera.



- a. Consider the picture in terms of style (e.g frame, camera angle, lens, composition, lighting, colours, costumes, performance, props, décor and the relationships between them.) Discuss how the various visual devices tell a story and share information about these people and their relationship to one another, about the situation and the social milieu, about the setting and so forth. Are there any genre cues – and if so, do they contribute to the picture’s meaning? Discuss three visual strategies. (+/- 4 pages)
- b. Do you think it is possible to distinguish this photo from a film still? If so, give one example where they may be seen to differ. If you do not feel the two can be separated, explain why not. (+/- 1 page)

**Question 2:**

Nicholas Ray's *Rebel without a cause* (1955) is one of the most famous films in cinema history. There are many reasons for its enduring popularity: it was directed by one of Hollywood's most acclaimed filmmakers, it features not one but two pop cultural icons, and its release coincided with the advent of youth culture in the USA and Europe. Indeed, many believe, in this last respect, that the film initiated a new genre: the teen film.

A central feature in *Rebel* and a recurrent trope in the genre of the teen film more generally is the troubled relation between children and parents. Analyse this scene and answer the all subquestions below: <https://youtu.be/RHrQlqoTTA>

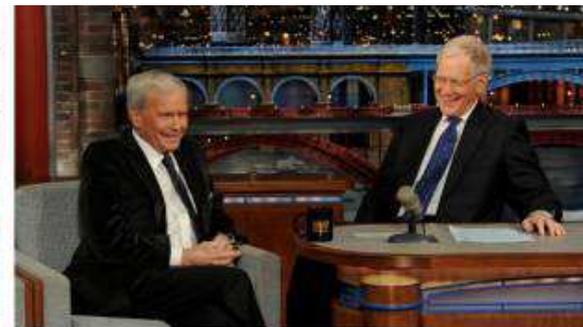
- a. How does this clip represent the discord between Jim, the character played by James Dean, and his father? Give three examples. Pay close attention to visual style as well as editing and draw on discussions in the readings. (+/- 3 pages)
- b. Judy (Natalie Wood) has an equally difficult relationship with her father, though for different reasons. How does the film visually contrast these two relationships? Describe one difference. (+/- 1 page)
- c. Can you think of a contemporary teen film or television series in which children are disappointed in or by their parents or vice versa? How does this compare with the presentation in *Rebel*? Make sure to reflect on matters of genre, cultural context and/or time. (+/-1 page)

**Question 3:**

As Bignell notes, talk shows have long been a prime feature of televisual culture. In general, scholars distinguish between two types of talk show: the day time talk show and the night time talk show. Occasionally, this division is further complicated by inclusion of a third category: the morning show.

- a. Below are a couple of images taken from each type – the day time and the night time talk show. Which visual differences can you discern? Analyze and reflect on three differences, using the still included here, as well as, if necessary, your own examples. Draw on discussions in the readings on film style and television. (+/- 3 pages)
- b. Consider the talk shows' stylistic register in relationship to issues of representation, foremost amongst them gender. (+/-1,5 page)

- c. In view of the above, could you imagine this genre to be successful in the other visual media we have discussed in the course, such as cinema or gaming. Explain why you think it can or cannot transcend its medium. Refer to the relevant ppts and literature. (+/- 0,5 page)



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**Information about the exam**

*You must submit your exam in English. Exams written in any other language will be marked as “not submitted”.*

*The submitted paper may be up to 10 pages (one page is calculated to approx. 2300 characters without spaces) . The front page and reference list do not count towards the 10 pages.*

*The exam must be submitted as a PDF, or it will not be accepted by Inspira.*

*Your front page must include your candidate number, and the name of the file you upload should be your candidate number (eg. 1234.pdf). Do not include your name anywhere on your exam submission.*

*All students are required to have read and familiarized themselves with the University's rules regarding cheating, found here: <http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/cheating/> All submissions will be checked using the University's plagiarism detection software.*

*Please see our web site for more practical information about exams at the Department of Media and Communication: <http://www.hf.uio.no/imk/english/studies/submission/index.html>*

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Timotheus Vermeulen can be contacted through e-mail, [timotheus.vermeulen@media.uio.no](mailto:timotheus.vermeulen@media.uio.no) , and will answer any questions regarding the exam submitted on Monday 13 November by 13:00. Questions will generally be answered by the end of the day.

**The exam results will be published in Studentweb on 7 December, 2017. Results will not be given by phone or e-mail.**