

Assessment criteria 4010

Cf. also examination: <https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imk/MEVIT4010/#exam>

Writing skills

The course emphasizes fundamental skills in academic writing. Therefore, the responses should exhibit clear language and a well-structured format. Constant ambiguities in the wording and fragmented / illogical organization can be sufficient grounds for failing the assignment.

Referencing and use of literature

The course stresses fundamental skills in searching for academic literature and referencing. There may be independent grounds for failing if there are consistent errors or clumsiness in both in-text references and reference lists. In terms of the ability to find literature relevant to the master's thesis, students are not expected to have a complete overview of relevant literature. However, they should have identified literature that is central both directly to the issue they have chosen and to the theoretical/methodological main areas that they situate their project within.

Research Questions and Possible Hypotheses

These should be specific enough to provide clear and selective guidelines for the analytical / investigative work. Particularly vague and non-committal formulations can be sufficient grounds for failing.

Analysis / Empirical Work

It is not required that students undertake any analytical or empirical work when submitting the project description. At the same time, it has been recommended in classes that one should conduct some small pilot work, as much of what will be included in the project description may become clearer through this process. Students may report on such work, which could be a plus, but it is not a requirement.

Ethics

Students should be able to succinctly refer to ethical issues that are relevant to the specific method / question and be able to identify the need for reporting to SIKT. If they have nothing to say in this regard, or only very general / non-committal statements about the importance of ethics, this may be grounds for failing.

Provisionality, lack of detail

The teaching has emphasized that the master's thesis is a process that will continually involve reassessments of what has been done. Therefore, it has been communicated that the project description can include descriptions of possible theoretical and methodological choices that have not yet been made—but not if the submission is characterized by a pervasive lack of knowledge about theory and methodology.

Scope

Since analyses and empirical work lies ahead in process of writing the MA thesis, we cannot require any detailed explanation of the nature and extent of the empirical work or analyses. At the same time, it has been indicated in teaching that students should make a preliminary estimate of, for example, how many interviews they plan to conduct or films they plan to analyze.

Page Limit

A 5-page limit for the project description is a rough estimate and not an absolute limit.