

## **Exam grading guidelines for Music and Copyright MUS2500/MUS4500 – 10 credits points**

### **General information**

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

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imv/MUS2500/index.html>

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imv/MUS4500/index.html>

### **Grading scale: A – F**

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

### **About the course**

This is a course for both BA and MA students. This is a course for students who wish to deepen their understanding of the relationship between music and copyright and improve their analytical skills in this area. Topics include the role of copyright in the creation and circulation of music, how copyright is exercised, and how it affects developments in musical genres. The course will offer the students a combination of scholarly approaches that draw from the traditions of musicology, law and media studies. It will balance a theoretical and historically informed understanding of the relationship between music and copyright with analytical approaches to contemporary challenges and ongoing debates. The course is based on the research of the ongoing projects [MUSEC](#) and [MASHED](#).

The seminars and the qualifying assignment has aimed to prepare the students to write an independent term paper on an topic related to the relationship between music and copyright.

### **Exam**

The exam is based on a term paper of 10 pages (approx. 23 000 characters, spaces not included) for BA-students and 15 pages (approx. 34 500 characters, spaces not included) for the MA-students. Bibliography, appendices, and/or diagrams are not included in the page count.

The exam assignment is formulated as follows:

Formulate a question related to music and copyright. Answer the question using perspectives from the syllabus. You are welcome to use other relevant academic sources as well.

The students have been presented with the following examples of questions:

- What rights do songwriters and performers have, and how can labels, publishers, broadcasters and other media exploit these rights?

- In July 2019, Kraftwerk won a decades-long dispute over unauthorised sampling. How can this case be understood in a historical context?
- The internet was seen as technology that would radically change notions of ownership of music. To what extent has this been realised?

The students are free to use one of the suggested questions, or specify their own version of one of them.

A good term paper is able to reflect on the relationship between music and copyright, for instance to discuss the extent to which developments in music (production, distribution or consumption) are interlinked with developments in copyright.

The assessment and grading must be aware of the general differences in the academic expectations to BA and MA-students.

**The following elements are taken into account in the evaluation of the paper:**

**1. Research question and relevance**

The research question should be clearly formulated. A good research question should open up for discussions and different interpretations. The candidate should also explain why the research question and topic are relevant and the paper must clarify what the candidate wishes to achieve by addressing the proposed question. The paper must be focused in answering the question proposed.

**2. Theoretical framework and methodology**

The candidate should explain the choice of theoretical and methodological approaches and why these are relevant to the research question. The theoretical framework should include relevant literature from the syllabus. However, the candidate is also encouraged to include supplementary literature, either from the optional reading list or self-chosen literature.

**3. Analytical skills**

In addition to insights into relevant theory and methods, the candidate's analytical skills and self-reflection are evaluated.

**4. Structure and writing style**

There should be a clear connection between research question(s), theory, method and analysis. It should be clear what is the candidate's own thinking and what he/she has read elsewhere. The sources must be cited accurately and all the sources must be listed at the end of the paper. The candidate is not required to use one specific reference style. However, the style of reference should be consistent throughout the paper.