Exam grading guidelines for *Popular Music Studies*
MUS2605 - 10 credit points

General information:
Information on course content, learning outcome, teaching and examination:
https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imv/MUS2605/

Grading scale: A – F
https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/grading-system/index.html

Course content:
The course gives an introduction to central questions and topics in popular music research. There is an emphasis on cultural theory, historiographical questions, approaches to music analysis, gender and identity theory, aspects of groove, sound, and production, as well as general perspectives on the study of popular music.

Learning outcome:
On completion of the course, students will:
• be familiar with central questions and terminology in popular music research
• be acquainted with different analytical approaches to popular music
• be able to apply analytical models across styles and genres
• be acquainted with different approaches to popular music in cultural theory
• have improved their skills in making written and oral presentations
• have been trained in developing research questions and using them as a basis for
• written texts
• be able to relate the course literature to relevant research traditions

Examination:
Term paper (10 pages of approximately 2.300 characters each, spaces not included) is to be handed in by a specified date at the end of the semester, on a topic agreed between student and instructor.
• The term paper may be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.
• be typed on a computer with the font Times New Roman, font size 12, and a line spacing of 1.5.

The obligatory mid-way assignments must be passed to take the exam. The outline for the term paper/research question is to be presented and discussed in obligatory seminar groups.

The main aim of the term paper is to demonstrate awareness, knowledge, and a critical understanding of the theories and methods that are used in popular music studies and related scholarly fields. Knowledge of the history of popular music studies as a discipline and an understanding of research questions related to the field is central to the course. In the term paper (exam) students are given a great deal of choice to select topics of relevance to the course and the course literature. This is an introductory course at bachelor level. A central criterion is how well the student manages to demonstrate his knowledge and understanding of key issues in popular music studies (see above).

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 in the context of popular music studies.

2. Theoretical framework and methodology
The student should demonstrate that he is familiar with the basic literature in popular music studies, see the course reading list for references. 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. The candidate should explain the choice of theoretical and methodological approaches and why these are relevant to the term paper.

4. Structure and writing style
There should be a good 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 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.