

## **Exam grading guidelines for Music, Humanity, and Colonialism MUS4500 – 10 credits points**

### **General information**

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

<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 course begins with a simple question: What is the history of the idea, that music is a cornerstone of humanity? We will see that this idea started to take shape in the Renaissance, and that it developed in a history of colonialism and capitalism. It also took shape in a variety of scholarly fields, including archaeology, anthropology, sociology, and ecology. We will see that these deeper histories and politics continue to influence how scholars today are thinking about the relationship between music and humanity. The course will provide critical perspectives on how various conceptions of music determine our lives, our thinking, and the ways we organize our human society.

The seminars will consist of conversations and clarifications of course concepts and assigned texts, discussing essay ideas, developing writing and presentation techniques. The qualifying assignments aim to prepare the students to write an independent term paper on a topic related to critical perspectives about music and music studies presented in the course.

### **Exam**

Term paper (10 pages excluding bibliography, 1.5 line spacing, each containing approx. 2.300 characters, spaces not included, consistent reference style). The title and topic of the term paper must be approved by the course tutor.

Students must fulfill the requirement of the compulsory activities in order to qualify for taking the exam.

### **The exam assignment is formulated as follows:**

The main assessment for this course is a final paper in which students engage the class content with their own research or artistic interests. Students can, for example, intellectually or hermeneutically engage with animal or posthuman music, critically discuss one of the topics studied during the course or describe a case of Western music's involvement in politics of exploitation, violence, and social inequality. The aim is to absorb and utilize the knowledge gathered in the course, but students are welcome to use other relevant academic sources as well.

**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 provoke discussions and different interpretations. The student 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 on 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 and interpretative skills**

In addition to insights into relevant theory and methods, the candidate's analytical and interpretative 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 in a bibliography section. The student is required to use one specific reference style throughout the paper.