

## **Exam grading guidelines for *Opera through the stage door***

### **MUS4525 – 10 credit points**

#### **General information**

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

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imv/MUS4525/index.html>

#### **Grading scale: A – F**

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

#### **About the course**

Developed in close collaboration with the Norwegian National Opera, this course seeks to introduce students to the practices and possibilities of stage interpretation in opera. Students will be invited into the opera house in order to gain a critical understanding of how meaning is created in the rehearsal room. Having actively observed the work of interpretation in the course of rehearsals in the opera house, students will in turn be asked to formulate their own conceptual approaches to a given work. No prior experience in opera direction is expected, but a keen interest in the nature of artistic interpretation and a willingness to think expansively, creatively, and rigorously about how meaning-making transpires in artistic practice is required.

We will discuss a broad range of materials, encompassing musicological works that offer insight into the specific opera being staged, to more theoretical work (encompassing theatre practice, social theory, textual theory, and/or media theory) on theatrical interpretation and performance practice.

By investigating some of the historical, technological, and aesthetic discourses surrounding opera and opera production, this course aims to clarify some of the ways in which opera functions as a living art form, shaped by and shaping contemporary sensibilities, informed by and in turn informing the way we understand and experience the world.

#### **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student will:

- have gained familiarity with the form and experience of opera as an historical, theoretical, and process-based art form
- have gained familiarity with the elements of opera production and how they are being deployed at Operaen
- have developed increased awareness of historical, commercial, and social factors in the opera industry

- have gained skills in aural and visual perception, critical assessment, and reasoning, and applied these skills to written work
- be able to prepare an analysis of an opera production as a basis for discussion of operatic elements such as dramaturgy and musical meaning-making

## **Exam**

The exam consists of a term paper which should be limited to a maximum of 15 pages of approximately 2,300 characters (not including spaces), with title and topic as agreed between student and instructor, to be handed in by a specified date at the end of the semester.

Bibliography, appendices, and/or diagrams are not included in the page count.

**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.