

## **Exam grading guidelines for *Music and Media* MUS2531/MUS4531 – 10 credit points**

### **General information**

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

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imv/MUS2531/index.html>

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imv/MUS4531/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. It introduces them to the key role of media and mediation in contemporary production, distribution and consumption of music. The course is organized according to these essential aspects of the music sector – production, distribution, consumption – but draws attention to how they overlap in new ways due to the use of new media. Introductory lectures to each aspect has been followed by guest lectures, presenting their specific take on the in depth (see [lecture schedule](#)). The students have been presented with different theoretical, historical, analytical and to some extent methodological approaches to the relationship between music and media.

The seminars and the qualifying assignment has aimed to prepare the students to write an independent term paper on a topic related to the role of media in music production, distribution and/or consumption. Seminars have included a guided visit to IMVs recording studio and a visit from a market executive in the record company SONY.

### **Exam**

The exam consists of a term paper of 10 pages (approx. 23.000 characters, spaces not included) for BA-students and 15 pages (approx. 34500 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:

Choose a topic related to production, distribution and/or consumption of music.

Formulate a research question related to the use of media. Answer the question using perspectives from the syllabus and the recommended literature. Other relevant academic sources can also be used.

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

- How is the recording studio changing in the digital age? Use Théberge's term «network studio» and Spilker's term «pre-distribution network», and discuss a contemporary example.
- How does music distribution via streaming services differ from distribution via radio and CD-sales? Use Spilker's «regulatory models» and Wikstrøm's notion of the «audience-media engine», and examine one streaming service in particular.
- Is music listening and fandom changing along with the use of new media? Use Baym's concepts of «relational labour» and «fandom», and include historical perspectives.

A good term paper is able to reflect on the relationship between music and media and discuss the extent to which developments in music production, distribution and/or consumption is interlinked with media developments.

The assessment and grading must take into account the general differences in the academic expectations for 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.