Task: a term paper between 3000-4000 words. Students developed their own research question, submitted a draft of their paper and received feedback on it.

Some general criteria:

• Clearly formulated research question
• Explains explicitly and very well the main theoretical and methodological choices, which must be relevant in relation to the research question.
• Demonstrates knowledge of relevant research in the field
• Correct representation of facts and relevant theoretical perspectives, shows independence in the production and discussion
• Clear structure and coherence throughout the paper
• Precise and clear language
• Coherent use of terms
• Consistent and correctly implemented use of references
• Stays within the scope limitations that have been defined unless very special considerations dictate that these limitations can be exceeded

A (Excellent)

Excellently carried out analysis, argumentation and documentation in line with the research question. An outstanding work in terms of analysis, method, presentation and knowledge of the scientific literature of the field.
A term paper that receives the grade A can only have deficiencies of a trivial nature within one or more of the above points.

B (Very good)

Very well carried out analysis, argumentation and documentation in line with the research question. A very good work in terms of analysis, method, presentation and knowledge of the scientific literature of the field.
A term paper that receives the grade B may have some shortcomings within one or more of the above points, but is mostly solid work within most of the points.

C (Good)

A good term paper on most key points. Reasonably good connection between research question(s), theory and data. An analysis that is presented and anchored in the scientific literature in the field.

A term paper that receives the grade C will have shortcomings in several of the above points, but is overall a good term paper.

D (Satisfactory)

On the surface, the term paper has been completed according to the criteria that apply to the format of a term paper, including length, formatting and source references, but has several and significant shortcomings. Satisfactory connection between research question, theory and empirical work, but lacking in knowledge of the field's scientific literature. Only partial use of knowledge independently.

A term paper that receives the grade D has significant shortcomings or weaknesses within several of the above points, but is overall work that is considered satisfactory.

E (Sufficient)

Satisfies only the minimum requirements pertaining to carrying out an independent research work and submitting an assignment in accordance with the criterion that apply to the format, including length, formatting and source references. The research question has only been answered to a small extent, and/or formulated with significant deficiencies or ambiguities. Lacks detailed knowledge and overview. A work of little independence.

A term paper that receives the grade E has very significant deficiencies or weaknesses within many of the above points, and is considered a work that only satisfies the minimum requirements.

F (Fail)

Does not satisfy the minimum requirements pertaining to conducting an independent research work and submitting an assignment in accordance with the criterion that apply to a Master's term paper, including length, formatting and source references. Does not master scientific working methods and does not master the field of knowledge. The problem statement is unclear, very deficient or unanswered. The research question(s) is unclear, incomplete or unanswered. The term paper is characterized by imprecise / immature language, unclear reasoning, unclear structure, lack of judgment and independence.

The official UiO grade criteria can be accessed here:

https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/grades/index.html