

MEVIT3427/JOUR4427 Media, War and Journalism

The students worked on their term paper throughout the semester. The exam question was provided at the very beginning of the course. The obligatory assignment was a draft of at least 3 pages of the final submission. Students received personalized and extensive individual feedback on what to improve in view of the final submission.

2 presentations were given to the students (files available upon request): the first on how to write a term paper (at the beginning of the course); the second, delivered after they received personalized feedback on their obligatory assignment, covered the problematic issues I, as instructor, came across most often in their papers and how to avoid them. Students have therefore received plenty of guidance on what they were expected to deliver in the term paper, and they had numerous opportunities to ask questions in case they had doubts.

Term paper question

BA level – MEVIT3427

It is often stated that new communication technologies are changing the nature of conflict. There are claims, for example, that conflict is now ‘mediatized,’ or ‘hybrid,’ or that new actors are being empowered, through social media platforms, in mobilizing allies or in framing a conflict to their advantage, and that we can receive an unprecedented and uncensored amount of information about conflict. Is this actually true, though? Assess if, how, and to what extent new communication platforms change the nature and scope of conflict and the knowledge we receive about it. Develop your answer by using theoretical frameworks, concepts and arguments from the course readings, and, if relevant, class discussions. Make sure you evaluate a variety of arguments and include one or more examples of conflict to illustrate your points. You are required to refer to relevant reading sources in the syllabus. You can use other sources, if you wish, in addition to them, not as a replacement.

MA level - MEVIT4427

It is often stated that new communication technologies are changing the nature of conflict. There are claims, for example, that conflict is now ‘mediatized,’ or ‘hybrid,’ or that new actors are being empowered, through social media platforms, in mobilizing allies or in framing a conflict to their advantage, and that we can receive an unprecedented and uncensored amount of information about conflict. Is this really true, though? Assess if, how, and to what extent new communication platforms change the nature and scope of conflict and the knowledge we receive about it. Also discuss what implications these developments (or lack of them, depending on the content of your answer) have for our democratic society. Develop your answer by using theoretical frameworks, concepts and arguments from the course readings, and, if relevant, class discussions. Make sure you evaluate a variety of arguments and include one or more examples of conflict to illustrate your points. You are required to refer to relevant reading sources in the syllabus. You can use other sources, if you wish, in addition to them, not as a replacement.

GRADING CRITERIA

The criteria below apply to BA and MA papers. For the MA-level papers, the standards are applied a bit more strictly. The MA question was also slightly different.

A

Extensive (or substantial) reading and firm understanding of the sources. Mostly focused on the question (for the MA paper: it mostly addresses all aspects of the question). Develops an independent argument. Perhaps the argument is not crystal clear, but the student shows confidence in using the sources to advance her/his position. Covers both theory and practical examples. Well structured, mostly easy to follow.

B

Shows reading and good understanding of the sources. Mostly focused on the question. It might not provide a very clear (or that convincing) answer, but there is an attempt to do so. Evidence of some critical approach to the sources consulted. Includes both theory and relevant examples. The text is mostly rich in content. It is structured. Maybe it shows confidence in using the sources to advance a critical/independent argument but is not as accurate, clear or in-depth as A-grade work.

C

Shows some reading and attempts to address the question. It tends to report the content of the sources consulted. It includes theory and examples. There might be missing concepts and/or theories that would have added more nuance and depth. The text tends to remain on the surface. Not always clear what the answer is or at points it is not clear where the discussion is going, but the content is relevant. There is some attempt to address the sources critically.

D

Some, but limited reading and engagement with the course materials. Quite fragmented and more superficial than at C level. There might be misunderstandings of the sources consulted, lack of structure and/or sense of direction (not necessarily all of these features). Language is unclear and at points it might be difficult to follow.

Alternatively: OK text, but it has not really included much discussion of theories and concepts from the syllabus as requested by the exam briefing. This would include discussions of case studies that are mainly descriptive, but not really based on applying theories and concepts.

Alternatively: the work describes the content of a handful (or less) of sources. Although all might be relevant, it is not clear how this content relates to the initial question or what the connection between the different sections is.

E

Sufficient. Bare pass. Below the minimum length, fragmented, shows little reading and engagement with the sources, although it might mention relevant issues. There are serious misunderstandings of the readings and/or errors.

F

Significantly below the minimum requirements.