

Assessment instructions for Internet, Self & Society (MEVIT4616)

The exam consists of a term paper (10 pages, if need be, excluding reference list [but I won't argue with a page more, either]).

Students have been invited, and have also been expected, to develop their own ideas in relation and response to the theories and scenarios discussed in class and to find their own materials and cases to study and apply to the perspectives developed in the course. They are further invited to use the term paper as a testbed for issues closely related, but not identical, with their MA theses.

On this basis, what is important in a grader's assessment is to check whether the rough structure that students were given has been filled meaningfully, to assess the quality and wit of the chosen materials and cases and how well they have been made to fit the course's main fields of interest.

Beyond that, the usual requirements of academic writing apply: i.e., consistent and complete referencing (no preferred system given), language and spelling etc., argument structure (e.g., introduction, indication of relevant literature/theory, research question/interest, a short methodological part, if applicable, main part/analysis etc). I informed students that I would be allowing of looser, more essayistic texts, too, however, I accompanied that with a warning that departing from a more conventional academic way of structuring texts always bears the danger of failing to produce and communicate a successful and convincing argument. Furthermore, I invited for the possibility of writing theoretical papers, but again warn students that this is often more challenging and bears, bigger risks of failing. If you find one of these texts, to be failing, please look into how interestingly, and productively this failing might turn out to be!

Please, feel free to apply these categories with flexibility and measure!

PS: Below is the **how-to guide** that I supplied students with:

THE EXAM IN *Internet Self & Society*, MEVIT4616

Steffen Krüger

The course's exam form is a term paper of 10 standard-laid pages. (This might, but need not include the reference list/bibliography) Thematically, students are invited (required, actually...) to find their own research objects, materials, problems and questions. Please, feel encouraged to use this freedom to support your ongoing (or freshly starting) Master thesis work by choosing research problems that pertain to your thesis's interests. However, make sure that you do not simply copy and paste from either your MA thesis work into your term paper, or vice versa. Rather, try to develop vantage points that help you think through points in your MA thesis which would otherwise remain 'white spots'.

Regarding the identification of possible term paper topics, the course's session themes and readings for each session are designed to make plenty of suggestions, offer vantage points and inspirations for what to look into in-depth and expand upon in your term papers. It has further proven valuable to take a regular look at digital news services, such as "Helt Digital" in Norway, or TechCrunch, or The Verge in the US. There are plenty of reports on new developments, the introduction of new digital features, new commission reports etc. that should give you material and directions for your studies. In the same vein, news about film, television and culture are good resources for finding ideas. Please, feel heartily welcome to present your ideas to and discuss them with Steffen; he will offer advice on how to shape your ideas.

For your term papers, you are of course more than welcome to expand your readings and references beyond the course literature, depending on the issue you are tackling in your respective text. Try to strike a balance between your own research interests and the course's main perspectives and outlooks! Hence, while it is a good thing to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a fair number of the course readings in your term paper, it is absolutely legitimate to corroborate your studies with additional literature, for example from UiO's digital library. A good rule of thumb is to refer to (at least) three of the course's texts in your term paper so that it becomes sufficiently clear how you draw on the course's readings in order to support your own argument.

I will arrange for an opportunity to submit a 4-page draft of your term papers and subsequently have them discussed with me in 25-mins. one-to-one supervision sessions shortly after the course has ended.

The complete term paper will be submitted in Inspira; check the UiO course page for the deadline!

Crossing fingers and looking forward to reading your works!
Steffen