

24. august 2006

## **MEVIT4000 Master's thesis seminar**

Information to international students.

This note includes information about course composition and assignments.

### **Course composition:**

The teaching will be organised in three components: a) plenary meetings, b) an intensive writing seminar, and c) group counselling.

#### **A) Plenary meetings**

The plenary meetings are based on lectures/orientations and student presentations. The international students are welcome to join all plenary meetings, but special arrangements will be made to allow for non-norwegian speakers to participate actively.

Schedule for international students

#### **24. August**

Meeting with International students after class.

#### **31. August at 0900-1000 in room 205**

Meeting before class on project ideas. All international students circulate a short description of their idea for a master's thesis project before 30. August (1-4 paragraphs). The idea should be circulated by e-mail to the group of international students + Tanja.

#### **7. September 0930-1030**

International students meet before class to discuss practical issues. Thereafter the international students participate in the beginning of class. Theme: Plenary presentations of the master theses the students have analysed in groups. The group of international students are asked give a 10 min presentation of the thesis they have read in the beginning of this class (before the Norwegian presentations). A written version of this presentation must be submitted by 13. September. See more under requirements.

#### **Some time week 37 (time to be confirmed)**

Orientation at the library

#### **21. September 0930-1030**

International students meet before class to discuss practical issues (this meeting probably needs to be outside the classroom). Thereafter the international students participate in the beginning of class. Theme: Plenary presentations of good advice from books from the reading list. The group of international students is asked give a 5 min presentation of the book they have read in the beginning of this class (before the Norwegian presentations).

## **B) Writing seminar 28.-29. September**

The writing seminar is an intensive 2-day seminar organised together with Norwegian speaking MEVIT4000 students. The seminar will facilitate writing exercises and work in groups as well as giving time for individual work with the project description.

Thursday 0900-1700: Writing seminar (+ social evening)

Friday 1015-1200: About the proposal, research methods and the way forward.

## **C) Counseling group starts in October**

Counseling leading up to a complete project description will take place in groups that start after the writing seminar. The students will be expected to present draft project descriptions – and to respond to draft descriptions presented by fellow students in the group counseling.

## **Assignments:**

### **Presentation of literature from the reading list**

The groups (also the group of international students) shall select and present one book from the reading list (The book in English is called Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb og Joseph M. Williams : *The Craft of Research*, 1995. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.) The group presentation shall be 5 minutes and only emphasize advice you found especially useful that you would like to share with the other students. The presentation will take place 21. September and is an oral assignment only.

### **Analysis of master's thesis – 1. obligatory assignment**

The group shall select one existing master's thesis to analyse and present to the other students. This group presentation shall be no more than 10 minutes and answer the following questions:

- What is the research question of the thesis?
- How relevant is the choice of theory and methodology for the research question
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis.

The written version of this presentation is the 1. obligatory assignment is a group assignment and should be 4-7 pages. Submit to [tanja.storsul@media.uio.no](mailto:tanja.storsul@media.uio.no) no later than 13. september.

## **Response to fellow student's draft proposal – 2. obligatory assignment**

A written report of the response students are asked to give to a fellow student in the counselling group. The response should take the following questions as its starting point:

- What is the main purpose of the project?
- What seems particularly interesting?
- Which challenges can you see in the project and how can these be solved?

This is an individual assignment and the written report should be 2-3 pages. Submit to [tanja.storsul@media.uio.no](mailto:tanja.storsul@media.uio.no) no later than 6. november.

## **Project proposal – 3. obligatory assignment/Exam**

The project proposal shall be handed in no later than 14. December – on paper – in IMKs reception.

The full project description shall give a good overview of what the thesis is about, which questions will be studied and how the study will be conducted. The description shall be 3-5 pages. The students will be assigned a supervisor on the basis of the project description. The project description shall include:

### **1) Working title**

### **2) Theme and object of analysis**

What shall the thesis be about – and which object(s) will be analysed? Here, the student shall describe the empirical material (or theoretical problem) which is the object of analysis.

### **3) Research question**

Which questions will be investigated? The student should be as concise as possible. Demarcation and a clear focus will be important here.

### **4) Methodology**

How shall the student proceed to answer the research question? At this point it is important to be precise in the choice of methodology. On the basis of this it should be possible to assess if the choice of methodology is appropriate to the thesis' theme and research question.

### **5) Possible: theoretical and contextual issues**

The project description *may* also show which theoretical approaches which will be important in the thesis, or if there are some research traditions that are of particular importance to the thesis. If the study will require particular resources (like access to specific archives, technical equipment, room etc), this should be described.

**Front page** must provide information about:

Name, e-mail, postal address, study program, working title and may include who you want as your supervisor.