

Subject: "Critical Media Studies"

КОД - 283

The Olympiad on the Subject of "Critical Media Research" consists of two rounds.

Round One. On first round participants are invited to write an essay in English. Participants perform the task remotely. The duration of the assignment is 24 hours. The Olympics starts at 10:00 Moscow time on February 16, 2020 and ends at 10:00 Moscow time on February 17, 2020. Participants can use any Internet resources and methodological literature. The completed paper should be sent to the email.

An essay is considered submitted if you receive a notification that your paper has been received. An essay submitted after 10:05 on February 17, 2020 shall not be accepted.

Your essay should be presented in Word format, Times New Roman font, size 12, with line spacing of 1.5. The left margin should come to 3cm; right margin – 1.5cm. The top and bottom margins must come to 1,5 cm. The essay should include the selected topic as the title and a bibliography.

The Olympiad exam will consist of one given question or theme, which candidates will need to discuss in the form of an essay. The text size is not less than 7,500 characters and not more than 13,000 characters with spaces (bibliography is not included).

We expect candidates to manifest their academic writing skills and show familiarity with international scholarly debates and general issues around the areas of media, culture and communication studies.

The maximum grade for the essay is 60 points. The marking criteria for this exam are the following:

1. Argument and Theoretical Background (up to 30 points)

The essay must support an argument and show familiarity with theoretical perspectives around scholarly debates. We expect that the candidate develops a critical- in the broader sense- thesis to the issue at hand and supports this thesis with literature.

2. Structure (up to 15 points)

The essay must have a clear structure, an introductory paragraph, where aspects of the theme and argument are discussed, a main body, where the argument develops and a

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short concluding section. The candidates should form sentences that connect to each other in a coherent way.

3. Language and Style (up to 15 points)

The language should display clarity of thought. The candidates should avoid jargon and convoluted phrases. Whenever academic terms are introduced they need to be explained or backed by literature. The candidates should use the Harvard referencing style (in-text citations with publication date and page number if needed) and include a short bibliography in the end.

Round Two. Participants gathering above 30 points (out of 60) are invited to Round Two, which is a personal interview in English. Non-Moscow based participants will have the opportunity to interview remotely. The duration of the interview will be no more than 20 minutes. The maximum grade for the interview is 40 points.

In the interview the candidates are expected to demonstrate their knowledge in research and explain their motivation to study the master's program.

The candidates will have to explain their future research plans and justify how the program will help them in their future careers. We will be paying particular attention to the methods, theoretical frameworks and originality of the themes that candidates discuss. We will ask questions related to the past research experience of the applicant, their motivation to enter the master's program and their future plans.

The marking criteria for this exam are the following:

1. Originality of research plan (up to 15 points)
2. Knowledge of theory and methods (up to 15 points)
3. Language, discussion and presentation skills (up to 10 points)