

GRADING CRITERIA

Grading papers is inherently subjective; however, the following criteria are meant to help you see what factors I take into consideration when reading your papers. These criteria describe a variety of common types of papers but may not exactly describe yours.

(0) *A paper which receives an F will tend to:*

- ▶ be dishonest.
- ▶ completely ignore the question/assignment.
- ▶ be incomprehensible due to errors in language or usage.
- ▶ contain very serious factual errors

(1) *A paper which receives a D will tend to:*

- ▶ simply list, narrate, or describe different ideas, and include several factual errors.

(2) *A paper which receives a C will tend to:*

- ▶ correctly list, narrate, or describe different ideas, but make little or no attempt to frame an argument or thesis.
- ▶ state an argument or thesis, but one that does not address the question/assignment.
- ▶ state an argument or thesis, but supporting ideas and evidence are: missing, incorrect or anachronistic, irrelevant, not sufficiently specific, and/or all or partly obscured by errors in language

(3) *A paper which receives a B will tend to:*

- ▶ contain an argument or thesis, supporting ideas and evidence; but counter arguments or counter examples or alternative explanations are not adequately addressed.

(3.5) *A paper which receives an A/B will tend to:*

- ▶ adequately state and defend an argument or thesis using appropriate concepts and materials; and answer counter arguments and alternative interpretations suggested by class material, reading assignments (specific arguments and authors are mentioned by name), or your own perspective.

(4) *A paper which receives an A will tend to:*

- ▶ adequately state and defend an argument or thesis using appropriate concepts and materials; and answer counter arguments and alternative interpretations; and have a spark of originality which shows a curious mind at work, surprising the reader or teaching the reader something new, helping the reader to see the material in a new way.