

Assessment Criteria
Political Science 103
Spring 2011

Criteria for Paper Evaluation

Category	F	D	C	B	A
<i>Conceptual Development</i>	Communication of thesis, reflection and interpretation lacking	Ideas inadequate, interpretative comments unclearly expressed.	Comments are thoughtful, adequate in closure and depth.	Good, interpretive statements. Well-developed ideas.	Well-developed ideas, crisply expressed. Well-supported thesis. Thorough discussion.
Organization	Unorganized and illogical.	Logic progression and connections frequently missing.	On the whole shows coherence and logical progression.	Most logical connections made.	Major points developed and followed. Locally connected throughout.
Original Thinking	No original ideas.	Mostly summary of present knowledge.	Some original thinking.	Interesting new approach to the topic.	Novel insights, well supported by arguments.
Depth of Research	No citation of resources. Lack of research. Did not answer question posed.	Most of major points missed. Citations inadequate. Research is minimal.	Discussion of some information for sources cited. Discussed some major points.	Literature cited and well incorporated. Discussed most major points identified.	Well researched. Major points accurately developed and documented. Good grasp of subject.
Wording	Unnecessarily wordy or not enough words or description to appropriately cover topic.	Diverges from subject with unnecessary prose. Or topic not quite covered sufficiently.	Problem is understood and beginning evidence of understanding solutions.	Generally concise with only occasional digressions, or covers most possible logical avenues.	Concise and appropriate. Covers topic and pursues appropriate pathways.
Form (spelling, grammar, etc)	Inconsiderate in form. Difficult to read.	Many errors. An area of significant difficulty.	Several errors creating distraction.	Few errors, ease in reading.	Attractive, well proofread.
Following assignment (length, style, citations, etc.)	Ignored assignment directions.	Barely follows directions.	Follows some directions.	Follows most directions.	Followed all assignment directions appropriately.

Plagiarism: Students committing plagiarism will receive an **F** for the assignment in question, and may rewrite their papers only with explicit permission from me. Consequences for plagiarism may also be more serious, including a failing grade in the course. Plagiarism includes:

- Copying the work of others, including from online sources, without sufficient attribution.
- Incorporating quotes from outside sources without proper attribution or placing the source in quotation marks
- Paraphrasing the ideas of others (including sources from the Internet) without adequate citation