

Paper Grading Standards

Grade	Style	Thesis	Argumentation	Use of evidence
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper is not intelligible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No thesis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points are asserted without argument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No evidence is used. There are no references to the sources of evidence.
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper contains numerous or major grammatical errors. Paper contains many spelling or punctuation errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is not stated in the introduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arguments are not related to thesis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence is not related to argument. Evidence is misinterpreted. Evidence is not cited adequately.
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper contains some grammatical errors. Paper uses informal or nonstandard English. Paper contains occasional misspellings or punctuation errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is obvious or general. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argument in each paragraph is clear but overall structure is not, <i>or</i> Overall structure is clear but the argument in paragraphs is not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence is only vaguely related to argument. Evidence is stated but not analyzed to show relation to argument. Contrary evidence is ignored.
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper is written in correct standard English. Paper is correctly spelled and punctuated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is focused and clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall argument and argument in each paragraph is clear and convincing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence is appropriate to the argument and analyzed to show its appropriateness. Contrary evidence is considered and refuted.
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper is written in clear, graceful standard English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is original and goes beyond lecture and readings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argumentation is especially acute and appropriate to the thesis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most appropriate evidence is used. Most damaging contrary evidence is considered and refuted.

A paper that is plagiarized will automatically receive an F. Plagiarism is also grounds for failing the course.

If you do not understand these criteria, talk to Prof. Ogilvie *before* you begin to write your paper.