# Paper Grading Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Argumentation</th>
<th>Use of evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| F     | • Paper is not intelligible.             | • No thesis.                    | • Points are asserted without argument. | • No evidence is used.  
• There are no references to the sources of evidence. |
| D     | • Paper contains numerous or major grammatical errors.  
• Paper contains many spelling or punctuation errors. | • Thesis is not stated in the introduction.  | • Arguments are not related to thesis. | • Evidence is not related to argument.  
• Evidence is misinterpreted.  
• Evidence is not cited adequately. |
| C     | • Paper contains some grammatical errors.  
• Paper uses informal or nonstandard English.  
• Paper contains occasional misspellings or punctuation errors | • Thesis is obvious or general. | • Argument in each paragraph is clear but overall structure is not, or  
• Overall structure is clear but the argument in paragraphs is not. | • Evidence is only vaguely related to argument.  
• Evidence is stated but not analyzed to show relation to argument.  
• Contrary evidence is ignored. |
| B     | • Paper is written in correct standard English.  
• Paper is correctly spelled and punctuated. | • Thesis is focused and clear. | • Overall argument and argument in each paragraph is clear and convincing. | • Evidence is appropriate to the argument and analyzed to show its appropriateness.  
• Contrary evidence is considered and refuted. |
| A     | • Paper is written in clear, graceful standard English. | • Thesis is original and goes beyond lecture and readings. | • Argumentation is especially acute and appropriate to the thesis. | • 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.