

General Criteria for Essays and Exams  
HSTAA 231  
Autumn 2019

The essay's grade within a range will depend on the combination of factors listed.

**A (3.5-4.0)**

- Addresses questions (or prompts) fully and directly.
- States a comprehensive argument that ties and explains everything together.
  - Addresses how and why in the argument.
- Incorporates a broad range of the most relevant evidence from the course material to develop and support the argument.
- Organizes and discusses ideas and evidence logically to develop and support the argument.
- Presents ideas and evidence through clear and efficient prose.

**B (2.5-3.4)**

- Addresses questions (or prompts) almost fully and directly.
- Attempts to state a comprehensive argument that ties and explains everything together.
  - Needs to address how and why in the argument.
- Incorporates some specific evidence, but omits some significant concepts, texts, and examples or neglects to relate evidence to the argument.
- Needs to organize ideas and evidence more effectively to support the argument.
- Needs to make prose clearer and smoother.

**C (1.5-2.4)**

- Omits critical issues in addressing questions (or prompts).
- Needs to state a comprehensive argument that ties and explains everything together.
  - Fails to consider how and why in the argument.
- Includes some evidence from the course material, but omits many significant concepts, texts, and examples.
- Discusses evidence in simplified and misleading ways.
- Neglects to organize ideas and evidence coherently.
- Includes many awkward phrasings and typos to disrupt the flow of the prose.

**D (0.7-1.4)**

- Neglects to address questions (or prompts) substantively.
- Does not attempt to state a comprehensive argument that ties and explains everything together.
- Omits almost all relevant concepts, texts, and examples.
- Misinterprets or misrepresents evidence.
- Organizes ideas and evidence in confusing and confused ways.
- Pays little attention to syntax and grammar to make the prose very difficult to follow.

**F (0.0)**

- Fails to address questions (or prompts) in any meaningful way.
- Fails to consider most or all of the course material.
- Presents someone else's work as own work (plagiarism does *not* need to be consciously intentional).