

Grading Policies

Examines and Problem Sets

This course will have no formal exams. Instead there will be **four take-home essay exams**. Each of these exams will require you to write a short (1 1/2 - 2 page) essay addressing the question presented. You will submit each essay to the course web site, which will send your essay, at random to another student in the course to critique. The identities of both you and the other student will remain anonymous. The critique will then be returned to you. You can then revise your essay based on the critique and any other information that you have garnered in the interim to revise your final draft. The last of the four essays will be given in lieu of a final and will be worth 200 pts.

In addition to the four essays, there will be three problem sets that deal with the more quantitative material in the course. These problem sets will be concentrated in November and early December and shouldn't overlap the essays.

Grading will be as follows:

Essays 1-3	100 pts each*	= 300 pts
Problem Sets	100 pts each	= 300 pts

*You will receive your grade for the essays in two parts: 70 pts for the final draft of your own essay and 30 pts for your critique of the other student's essay.

There will be clear rules with respect to the timing of essay submissions to the website and to Turnitin.com. Failure to follow these rules will result in a loss of credit on that exam.

You may discard one of these six grades. Because you can discard a grade, absolutely no excuses for missed exams or problem sets will be accepted.

The last exam, which begins on Friday, December 1 is mandatory. It will be worth 200 points, 140 points for your essay and 60 points for your critique

Participation

Attendance is important for learning. To monitor attendance and to check on your understanding of course material, we will have 10 short quizzes scattered through the semester, each worth 10 pts. If you are absent you earn zero points. If you give a correct answer, you earn 10 points. Marginal answers will earn 6 points. Totally incorrect answers will earn 2 pts.

Thus, the total grading for the class is as follows:

Essays and problem sets	= 500 pts
Final Essay (mandatory)	= 200 pts
Participation	= <u>100 pts</u>
	800 pts

Final Grades

The assignment of final grades will be as follows

90% or above	A range
80 - 89.9%	B range
70 - 79.9%	C range
60 - 69.9%	D range
59.9% or below	F

Graduate Students

In addition to submitting all of the essay exams and problems sets, graduate students will be expected to review and critique **three** papers from the primary literature on **three different relevant subjects of their choice**. Each of these critiques will be worth 100 points. The critiques will be due at the time that subject is covered in the course. All graduate students will be expected to consult

with the instructor regarding the papers from the primary literature that they chose to read and critique. **Thus, graduate students will be graded on a total of 1000 points, using the same grade range criteria as shown above.**

Criteria for Grading Written Work

Criteria	<u>Expected Grade Range</u>		
	<60%	≈75%	≈90%
On Topic?	Does not answer the question	Answers the question	Shows insight and understanding
Reasoning?	Reasoning is obscure and hard to follow	Reasoning is clear	Reasoning is clear and convincing
Sources?	Does not refer to sources to support argument	Refers to appropriate sources	Quotations and references support argument as well
Grammar?	Frequent grammatical mistakes and misspellings	Minor grammatical and spelling mistakes	Writing is concise and grammatically correct
Readability?	Hard to follow and not well organized	Organization and flow are not logical	Good flow to paper and easy to follow

Assignment Grade _____

L473 Grading Scale

Letter Grade	%	30 Points	70 Points
A+	100	30.0	70.0
A	96	28.8	67.2
A-	92	27.6	64.4
B+	89	26.7	62.3
B	86	25.8	60.2
B-	82	24.6	57.4
C+	79	23.7	55.3
C	76	22.8	53.2
C-	72	21.6	50.4
D+	69	20.7	48.3
D	66	19.8	46.2
D-	62	18.6	43.4