

## ESSAY GRADING CRITERIA

We grade the essays using the nine criteria below. For each criterion, we assign between 0 and 3 points depending on how well the essay meets its requirements, with 0 representing complete failure according to the criterion. The total number of points is 27.

1. *Exposition.* Is the essay well-organized and free of spelling and grammatical errors? .....
2. *Relevance.* Does the essay answer the question asked? How relevant is the content of the essay to that question? .....
3. *Completeness.* Does the essay address adequately all the issues requested? ...
4. *Readings.* Where appropriate, does the essay integrate readings that have been covered in the course? How well have the readings been understood? .....
5. *Argument.* Does the essay make a clear and coherent argument? How much independent thought does it demonstrate? .....
6. *Evidence.* Does the essay support the argument with appropriate factually correct historical examples? Does it demonstrate an awareness of the contemporary implications of the material? .....
7. *Critical thinking.* Does the essay offer effective criticism of a point of view presented in the course (including, of course, the professor's)? ..
8. *Analysis.* Analysis is a matter of breaking things into their component parts and determining how they function. Does the essay go beyond surface assertions to evaluate the logic that generates the conclusions? .....
9. *Synthesis.* Synthesis is a matter of pulling things together. Does the essay show an appreciation of how the issues discussed are relevant to the broader concerns of the course? Does it make creative connections between the arguments of different authors? .....

TOTAL POINTS:

GRADE: