

Grading Guidelines for the Department of Political Science

As of September 16, 2005

Grade	QPA	QPA	Percent		Criteria / Description
	Full (6 credit hour) courses	Half (3 credit hour) courses		Relevant Calendar Regulation	Although the weighting of these categories may vary from course to course, evaluation is normally based on three broad categories: form (grammar, syntax and presentation), content (use of relevant, original, and current material), and analysis (nuance, balance and critical assessment).
A+	4.300	2.150	90-100	5a	Outstanding, Exceptional, Brilliant. Demonstrates mastery of the subject matter, is an insightful, original thinker / writer, connects theory and practice, understands context and interdisciplinary connections, outstanding research and writing (grammatical, punctuation, spelling . . .) skills
A	4.000	2.000	85-89	5a	Excellent. Student has mastered the material / course but lacks no more than one of the other qualities listed above for A+ work.
A-	3.700	1.850	80-84	5a	Student has generally mastered the material /course but performance in two or more abovementioned categories is less than superior. Minor proofreading problems.
B+	3.300	1.650	77-79	5a	Very Good. Well above average and critical understanding of essential material , well-organized thinker / writer /researcher.
B	3.000	1.500	73-76	5a	Good. Focussed. Clear pattern of argument . Good survey of essential research. Well-developed paragraphs.
B-	2.700	1.350	70-72	5a	Interesting. Beyond obvious arguments and research, some critical thinking, grammatically sound.
C+	2.300	1.150	67-69	5a	Above Average. Very good grasp of assigned / required material. Some critical skill
C	2.000	1.000	63-66	5a	Average, Satisfactory. Fairly good grasp of the assigned / required material. Basic research and writing skills. Little to no creative or original writing.
C-	1.700	0.850	60-62	5a	Fair, Adequate. Noticeable pattern of argument. Few serious grammatical or substantive mistakes / gaps. Limited documentation, substantiation of argument
D	1.000	0.500	50-59	5a, 5c	Marginal Pass. Meets minimum requirements but unlikely to succeed in or get into higher level course
F	0.000	0.000	0-49	5a, 5d, 16b,c,d,e	Failure. Student has withdrawn after the deadline. Plagiarism. Does not meet minimum requirements, has an inadequate grasp of the material, poor research and writing skills..
IP	0.000	0.000	0		In Progress. Dean's permission / defaults to F for Honors courses and theses / defaults to F at 6 months
IC	0.000	0.000	0	5e	Incomplete Dean's permission / defaults to F
AE	or estimate	or estimate	or estimate	5b, 12	Aegrotat. Dean's permission for Medical or compassionate reasons
W	n/a	n/a	n/a	5b, 16a	Withdrawal. Authorized withdrawal from course
AI	n/a	n/a	n/a	5h	Administrative Incomplete. When student is not responsible for incomplete grade