

# Comparative Literature Grading Guidelines

Overall Course Grade	Holistic Performance in Class	Engagement with Course Materials and Participation	Essay Writing*	Exams
A-/A/A+	Excellent, exceeds expectations	Reads texts or images closely and carefully, and incorporates this consideration of the materials into thoughtful contributions to class discussion.	Makes an original argument supported by a clear line of reasoning and analysis of textual evidence. Allows the scholarly community to conceive of the question at issue in a new way. No errors in grammar, style, or mechanics. Exceeds expectations. Revises.	Demonstrates a clear, comprehensive understanding of all material covered in the class, including lectures, in-class discussion, and readings. Answers all questions completely and exceeds expectations. Has mastered the material and met all course objectives.
B-/B/B+	Good, meets expectations and occasionally exceeds some expectations	Reads texts or images carefully. Listens to fellow students and instructor but contributes only occasionally to class discussion.	Makes an original argument about a text. Textual analysis supports a line of reasoning. Few errors. Revises.	Understands all material covered in the course. Answers questions completely and meets expectations.
C-/C/C+	Adequate, meets but does not exceed expectations	Has read or viewed course materials and actively listens.	Makes an argument. Some reasoning supports main argument. Textual evidence is present. Some errors.	Understands most material covered. Answers questions completely but makes some mistakes.
D-/D/D+	Poor, fails to meet some expectations	Occasionally is not present in class. Has read only part of assigned material.	No clear main argument. Errors are such that meaning is obscured. Some reference to text in question, but no textual evidence. Does not meet expectations for assignment.	Understands only some of the material or has a superficial grasp of the material. Answers some questions completely but not all. Makes mistakes.
Failing Grade [automatic in the case of plagiarism]	Does not meet expectations	Doesn't attend class or hasn't completed the reading.	Essay does not meet assignment expectations. No argument, no line of reasoning or original thought expressed.	Does not understand course material. Many mistakes.

\* In 300 and 400 level courses, essays should make the stakes of the argument clear. In upper-division courses, essay writing may also include attention to the critical discourse surrounding the text or issue at hand, incorporate literary research, and/or be clearly placed in a critical dialogue with outside sources.