

## **Everything you ever wanted to know about grades but were afraid to ask**

Papers and other assignments will be assessed according to all four criteria as described below. The grades will be a *total* of these assessments. Failure to meet the deadline may also mean that the assignment will be graded down. A student passes with 5,5.

### 1. Content

The student's work:

- fulfills all elements of the assignment
- shows knowledge of the field
- covers a range of secondary and primary material
- contains a central research question
- is interdisciplinary
- offers an analysis that contains more than a summary
- goes beyond the confines of the course
- adds new arguments, case-studies, notions, issues, texts
- theoretically furthers the debate it engages with
- presents (an) eye-opener(s) to fellow students and teacher
- offers critical reflection on her/his methods and theories

### 2. Argumentation

The student's argumentation is:

- sufficiently elaborate, in-depth
- theoretically sound
- critical and/or analytical instead of descriptive
- systematic
- consistent
- convincing
- coherent

- taken from a new angle
- a case of independent thinking
- creative
- relevant for the scholarly discussions in the field

### 3. Structure of paper

The student's paper:

- shows a sharpness of focus
- is well-organized (as shown in titles, subtitles, sign posts)
- includes a good-quality (methodological) introduction including a research question, as well as an analysis, conclusion, list of sources

### 4. Writing

The student's paper shows:

- correct spelling
- clarity
- academic style
- good quality composition
- adherence to bibliographic conventions
- no plagiarism or misreading or misuse of sources

#### **1-4: insufficient**

#### **5: almost sufficient**

*The task is not fulfilled, and the paper is not elaborate and therefore unsatisfactory.*

*N.B.: 5,5 is the threshold (the student passes with a 5,5)*

#### **6: sufficient**

*The task is fulfilled, but the paper is insufficiently elaborate and written in not quite satisfactory manner*

#### **7: good**

*The task is fulfilled, the paper is elaborate, and it is written in a sufficient manner. Even so, it stays within the confines of the course, and it is to a certain extent a summary, descriptive instead of analytical or critical.*

**8: very good**

*A theoretically sound paper written by a confident scholar. The paper results from fulfilling the task neatly, by critically engaging with the course material and by adding something critical to the task (e.g. self-positioning, relevant literature, a recent news item)*

**9: excellent**

*The paper is critical and creative and written by an independently thinking scholar. It furthers the debate it engages with, theoretically, methodologically, or by adding a new case study.*

**10: outstanding**

*All of the above, and the paper is an eye-opener in the context of the debate it engages with.*