

ELIT 490 SENIOR PROJECT

GRADING GUIDELINES FOR ACADEMIC WRITING

A+ (96-100) and A (90-95)

The assignment/project deals very well with the topic and shows some measure of originality and independent thought as well as understanding of the text(s) and issues involved. There will be some good close reading and interpretation of the text(s) concerned, and the ability to relate this close reading and interpretation to larger issues. The essay/project should be well written and clearly and efficiently organized, with few serious mistakes, and should engage with critical or theoretical material effectively. For an A+, there needs to be considerable originality and independent thought, and the integration of close readings and theoretical and other larger issues. The writing should be practically error-free, with no significant mistakes of presentation, argument, or organization.

A- (88-89)

The assignment/project deals very well with the texts and the topic, showing good knowledge of the text(s) and a good understanding of the question, but showing slightly less originality and independent thought. It will again be well organized and well written, and will engage with larger issues and with critical or theoretical material effectively.

B+ (86-87)

The assignment/project shows a solid grasp of the text(s) and the topic, but perhaps the close reading and the connection between this and larger issues may not be so well managed and the use of critical for theoretical material may be a little less successful. The essay will be generally well written and organized, although with some small/local problems in the English and the organization.

B (80-85)

The assignment/project is competent and the writer shows that s/he understands the text(s) and the topic, but probably there will be less depth in the treatment of the issues, and the close reading and interpretation will not be so successful, nor will the linking of the close reading to larger topics or the use of critical or theoretical material. The English is acceptable though not so good as in essay with higher grades, and there may be some minor problems of organization.

B- (78-79)

The assignment/project will reveal the understanding of the text(s) and the topic to be adequate. The organization and English may be somewhat problematic in places; sometimes it may be hard to understand entirely what the writer wants to say. Close reading and interpretation and the discussion of larger issues and the use of secondary and theoretical material are also less successful.

C+ (76-77)

The assignment/project shows that the writer has understood the text(s) and the topic but may not be able to deal very competently with the issues raised. S/he may know what s/he wants to say, but is not able to communicate the ideas effectively to the reader. Language and organization begin to be unsatisfactory rather more often, or the writer writes too simply so that the issues cannot be discussed satisfactorily.

C (70-75)

The student has managed to understand the main points about the text(s) and the topic. Organization and English are also satisfactory, no more; there may well be some problems with both, and the meaning/argument may not emerge clearly in places. There is little or no close reading, a tentative grasp of larger issues, and perhaps some over-simplification.

C- (68-69)

The student may have understood the text(s) and the issues, but is not very successful in communicating this understanding to the reader. Organization and English are both quite problematic and close reading and discussion of larger issues inadequate. Over-simplification is a problem.

D+ (66-67)

The understanding of the text(s) and the issues is weak, and the English and organization are both problematic, and although there are glimpses of understanding, the discussion is too poorly written and organized (and often over-simplified) for the grade to be higher. Relevance and/or localized plagiarism may also be problems.

D (50-65)

The assignment/project shows barely any grasp of text(s), secondary material, or issues, and the English and organization are very problematic. Relevance and/or localized plagiarism may also be problems.

F (0-49)

Neither the text(s) nor the issues has/have been understood or adequately dealt with. The English is a long way below the acceptable level with serious errors throughout. The organization is weak or completely lacking, and large parts of the work may be irrelevant and/or plagiarized.