

**GRADING GUIDELINES FOR ELIT 490 SENIOR PROJECT
CREATIVE WRITING OPTION**

A+ (96-100) / A (90-95) / A- (88-89)

The project shows very notable originality in conception and execution as well as serious and complex engagement with significant and substantial topics. It shows appreciable skill in its use of literary tools and techniques (such as narrative, characterization, dialogue, and figurative language, among others). Few errors of grammar or idiom are in evidence. The style is marked by clear and effective expression, by a real capacity to live in, to inhabit, the medium of English.

B+ (86-87) / B (80-85) / B- (78-79)

The project is competent. It shows some appreciable originality in conception and execution. It engages with significant and substantial topics. It shows some skill in its use of literary tools and techniques (such as narrative, characterization, dialogue, and figurative language, among others). Errors of grammar or idiom are in evidence, but not egregiously so, and those that occur cause little impediment to communication. Expression is fairly clear and effective; the basics of structure and organization are in place.

C+ (76-77) / C (70-75) / C- (68-69)

The project shows some originality in conception and execution, but perhaps very little. It attempts to engage with significant and substantial topics, though it may quite frequently fall into triteness, triviality, or oversimplification of its concerns. It attempts to make use of appropriate literary tools and techniques, but with limited success. Errors of grammar or idiom are quite insistently in evidence, to the degree that expression is not always readily comprehensible. Structure and organization, though far from ideal, have received some consideration, and serve the project rather more than they mar it.

D+ (66-67) / D (50-65)

The project falls short of expectations. It may show evidence of rushed or careless preparation, but it is certainly unsatisfactory in its achievement. It fails to engage with significant and substantial topics and fails to make effective use of appropriate literary tools and techniques. Errors of grammar or idiom are very much in evidence and present a serious impediment to communication. Typically, structure and organization are also poor.

F (0-49)

The project falls well below Departmental standards. Errors of expression are so frequent and so severe that much of the material is incomprehensible. The more subtle and complex evaluative criteria (such as originality or the skillful use of literary techniques) really cannot be applied to the project at all.

Note: the guidelines above assume that the project satisfies the basic requirements of style and presentation, and, most notably, that it is of appropriate length.