

GEH 101/GEH 501: Introduction to Geography
Term Paper Grading Rubric

Student Name: Sample Student

Grade Component (Weight)	Exceeds Expectations (10)	Meets Expectations (8-9)	Approaching Expectations (6-7)	Does Not Meet Expectations (0-5)	Points × Weight
Thesis (8%)	Thesis clearly and provocatively advances an original argument	Clear and specific thesis that sets up the central argument(s)	Thesis vague or not central to implied argument(s)	No discernable thesis	10*8%= 0.8
Conclusion (7%)	Conclusions critically reflect on the topic and positions it within existing and future research	Conclusions are convincing and function to position paper within an external context	Conclusions superficial or unconvincing and the relevance of the paper is not made clear	No conclusions or connections to the world outside of this paper	10*7%= 0.7
Structure/Length (15%)	Paper structure is fluid and guides reader through arguments; scope of paper is clearly defined and appropriate to the arguments; within length requirements	Paper is organized in a coherent and logical manner; scope of paper is appropriate; within 15% of length requirements	Paper inconsistently organized but attempts to guide reader through arguments; scope of paper may be too broad/narrow; within 20% of length requirements	Paper is disorganized and lacks coherent structure; scope of paper is unclear; significantly outside of length requirements	10*15% =1.5
Use of Evidence (25%)	Engages with scholarly geographic research; synthesizes and critiques the arguments of scholarly geographic research	Appropriately cites academic geographic research to develop arguments; demonstrates comprehension of arguments and distinguishes argument from opinion	Uses academic and non-geographic sources inconsistently; arguments inconsistently supported by evidence; may contain unsubstantiated opinion	Does not cite relevant scholarly research to support arguments; arguments mostly unsubstantiated	10*25% =2.5
Analysis/Geographic Content (35%)	Critically engages topic in insightful ways; geographical analysis central to argument; clearly demonstrates engagement with different branches of geographic thought	Shows thorough understanding of the topic and goes beyond recitation of facts; may have minor factual or conceptual inconsistencies; engages with at least one branch of geographic thought	Shows basic understanding of ideas and information; may have some factual, interpretive, or conceptual errors; geographic connections not clear or shows lack of understanding of geographic concepts	Lacks an understanding of topic; no clear geographic analysis	10*35% =3.5
Mechanics (10%)	Grammar, punctuation, spelling are correct; formatting follows APA style conventions	Grammar, punctuation, and spelling mostly correct; evidence of proof reading; formatting generally consistent with an appropriate style convention	Some grammatical, punctuation, or spelling errors; appears not to have been proof read; formatting shows some use of style conventions	Grammar, punctuation, or spelling interfere with readability; little or no attempt to follow style conventions	10*10% =1.0
				Total ÷ 10	100%

Grade Scale: **A** – 90-100%; **B** – 80-89%; **C** – 70-79%; **D** – 60-69%; **F** – < 60%