

Literature Term Paper Assessment Rubric

This rubric is meant to assist students and lecturers in discussing expectations for the term paper, and can be used for grading and commenting on term papers. It is meant as a complement to the term paper guidelines on the British and American Studies website. This rubric aims for increased transparency, but grading is not an exact science and may include consideration of elements not covered in this rubric.

	Criteria	Assessment
Thesis	The introduction includes a clear, debatable and original thesis and uses signposting to explain how the paper will support it.	
Structure	The paper has a logical structure, with clear divisions, transitions, and perhaps metalanguage guiding the reader through the argument. Paragraphs are focused and include topic sentences and sufficient substantiation.	
Analysis	Primary and secondary sources are thoroughly analyzed. The paper considers thematic, formal and possibly historical aspects of the primary literature. The paper engages with scholarly perspectives that are clearly presented and put in conversation with each other and the author's own thesis in a compelling and original way. Specific lecturer-supplied instructions regarding how many sources to use are followed.	
Language	The paper is written in easy-to-understand English that flows well. The paper has an appropriate academic register and avoids colloquialisms.	
Formatting	The paper follows the formatting guidelines on the department website. Sources are properly cited both in the body of the paper and in the bibliography.	

Grade:

LEVEL-SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS:

Proseminar papers:

The paper demonstrates that the student has engaged with relevant secondary material and is able to relate it productively to their own argument. It takes care to employ terminology correctly.

Hauptseminar papers:

The paper engages substantially with the scholarly debate and the contribution of its own argument is convincingly highlighted. Its use of relevant terminology is competent and productive. A consistent methodology for the analysis of its primary material is developed in the paper, and it draws effectively on theoretical perspectives.