

PS1400 Final Paper / Essay Grading Rubric

- Length
 - Paper length: 6-8 pages
 - Exam essay length: What a person can write in approximately 60 minutes
- Paper Formatting:
 - Font size 11 point or 12 point
 - Margins 1 inch
- Introduction (20%)
 - Does the introduction begin with a clear question?
 - Does the essay/paper establish a clear “They Say” with whom the essay/paper is in conversation
 - Does the essay/paper have a strong and clearly articulated thesis (that is, “I Say”)?
 - Is a brief summary of the argument to come outlined in the introduction?
- Evidence (60%)
 - Structure:
 - Is the thesis supported by three bodies of evidence?
 - Do paragraphs have clear topic sentences?
 - References:
 - Are at least one film and three readings engaged with substantively (it's not enough just to mention once in intro)
 - Does the essay/paper use relevant evidence from the course, other scholarship and films to test, support and develop the thesis?
 - Close reading of film:
 - When focusing on a particular film, does the essay/paper have sustained, rigorous analysis of clearly identified short sequences? In other words, does the essay/paper successfully engage in a “close reading” of a scene?
 - Close reading of text:
 - When citing or responding to scholarship, does the essay/paper demonstrate good attention to detail?
 - Overall:
 - Does the writer make distinct, compelling points about a representative piece of evidence? Does the writer draw out meaning from a relevant example?
- Conclusion (10%)
 - Is there a clear summation of the overall argument?
- Prose, structure, grammar (10%)
 - Is the writing clear, concise, engaging, well organized, and grammatically correct?
 - Does the essay/paper reference relevant ideas and integrate them effectively?