

GRADING

100%	This paper does everything that a 95% paper does <u>and</u> upon concluding the paper, I can only exclaim, "Wow!"
95%	This paper is well-written and well-organized. This paper has a clear point ("thesis") that guides the structure and flow of the paper. The course readings are used to guide and support the paper's argument in an integral way. Proofreading is excellent.
90%	This paper is excellent overall, but is lacking in one of the areas named above in a minor way.
85%	This paper is solid but not spectacular. This paper has minor problems in multiple areas, or is lacking in one or two areas in a slightly more serious way.
80%	The paper is lacking in one of the areas named above in a major way, typically in the use of the course readings or in organization/proofreading.
75%	This paper is lacking in a couple of areas in a major way, typically in the use of the course readings <i>and</i> in organization/proofreading.
70%	This paper has major problems in multiple areas, though the author appears to have made a serious effort to do the assignment
Below 70%	The author of this paper made no serious effort to complete the assignment. The paper was a waste of my and the author's time.

My basic grading strategy is to begin by considering every paper a solid "A" (95%), then move the paper up or down categories as I come across excellences or liabilities in the paper.

This is not a perfect science, but I think any downward errors are offset by upward errors I may make.