

Evaluation Rubric for Essays in FIYS 114

This is a general rubric for evaluating essays in FIYS 114. The specific goals and expectations for use of concepts will be stated in class for each essay. Use this rubric to evaluate and improve your own essay.

Criteria	Outstanding (A) 50 pts	Very Good (A-, B+) 45 pts	Good (B, B-) 40 pts	Satisfactory (C) 35 pts	Unacceptable (D, F) 30 pts or less
Use of concepts from course to address question	Question addressed using concepts with excellent understanding and sense of relative importance of arguments	Question addressed with correct and complete use of concepts	Question addressed with generally correct and complete use of concepts	Question addressed but concepts applied with errors or incompletely	Did not address question directly
Appropriate details	Judicious choice of details maximizes interest and understanding	All relevant details presented, but details not critical to understanding omitted	Enough critical details presented for understanding, unnecessary details generally omitted	Most important details included but may include too much or too little detail for easy understanding	Some critical details missing, unnecessary details may be present
Statement of problem or question with background	Problem or question is stated engagingly with illuminating use of background material	Clear statement of problem or question set in appropriate context with background information	Problem or question explained with most relevant background information	Problem or question stated as in handouts, some, possibly incomplete, background material provided	Failure to clearly state the problem or question, lack of background beyond focus question from handout
Overall organization	Develops a series of persuasive arguments and explanations; seemingly effortless and seamless logical flow	Well chosen arguments and explanations; logical flow and connections always easy to follow	Relevant arguments and explanations presented; builds case with mostly logically connected arguments	Some arguments and explanations presented, possibly incomplete; possibly some awkwardness in logical flow	Major sections missing or lack of logical flow
Clarity of explanations	Sophisticated use of language maximizes interest, enjoyment and comprehension; explanations very clear, factually correct	All explanations clear and easy to understand, factually correct	Most explanations clear and easy to understand, mostly factually correct	Overall meaning is understandable; possibly some areas of confusion or factual errors	Serious difficulty explaining ideas, major factual errors; lack of comprehensibility
Use of terminology	Correct use of all terminology, attention to nuances of meaning, judicious use of clearly defined jargon	All technical terms used correctly and defined clearly, including terms with different common meanings; overuse of jargon avoided	Few errors in use of terminology; definitions provided for technical terms, overuse of jargon avoided	Most terms used correctly, possibly some incorrect usage or use of unnecessary or undefined jargon	Jargon terms used incorrectly, without definition; attempting to sound "scientific" without understanding meaning of terms
Writing style	Sophisticated, elegant style, complex yet lucid sentence structure, flawless grammar	Error-free, easy to read writing style, well practiced and polished use of language	Good basic writing style, easy to read, few errors, almost entirely in author's own words, little paraphrasing or unnecessary quotation	Mostly basic, correct writing style, relatively few errors and little awkwardness, some use of unnecessary quotation or paraphrasing	Serious errors and awkwardness, excessive use of quotation in place of author's own words, excessive paraphrasing