**Essay Grading Rubric**

**A = Excellent.**

* Have a strong thesis (argument) that is clearly supported by a well-organized essay.
* Provide excellent examples to support your thesis.
* Show thorough comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
* Demonstrate innovative interpretations and approaches, explained very clearly.
* Have strong analyses of material and arguments found in lecture, discussion, reading, and research (as appropriate for the given assignment).
* Contextualize ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
* Have proper citations as per the syllabus.
* Be written clearly, with very few errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

**B = Very Good.**

* Have a good thesis that is supported by a mostly well-organized essay.
* Provide appropriate examples to support your thesis.
* Demonstrate comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
* Have good interpretations and approaches, explained completely.
* Analyzematerial and arguments found in lecture, discussion, reading, and research (as appropriate for the given assignment).
* Connect ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
* Have proper citations with few mistakes as per the syllabus.
* Be written clearly, with minor errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

**C = Good/Average.**

* Have a thesis, perhaps flawed, incompletely supported, and/or hindered by a poorly organized essay.
* Provide examples to support your thesis.
* Demonstrate basic comprehension of most of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
* Reveal some incompleteness in the interpretations and approaches, and/or their explanation.
* Incompletely analyze material and arguments found in lecture, discussion, reading, and research (as appropriate for the given assignment).
* Incompletely connect ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
* Improper use of citations, or incorrect format as per the syllabus.
* Be written clearly, with some errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

**D = Below Average.**

* Does not meetthe minimum requirements(word count, basic organization).
  + Basic organization means an introductory paragraph with thesis at the end, body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph.
* An attempt to answer the prompt, but often fails to address part of it (only covers one topic for a compare/contrast paper, for instance).

**F = Failing.**

* Does not answer the prompt**,** off topic.
* Lacks citations.