

Grading Standards for SHUM 415

Grades in this class follow the following standards:

A - Makes me say “hmmm, wow!” New ideas, with a solid argument to back them up. Pushes beyond the arguments in the reading and discussion in class to create new syntheses or critiques. Excellent, original work.

B - Good work, and solid argument along standard lines. Builds on reading / discussion to come to a coherent conclusion. Demonstrates good knowledge in concepts and techniques from the course. Responds to assignment thoughtfully.

C - Significant understanding, but also some serious errors. Some examples of such errors include the following: argument may be weak, with little evidence to back it up, or a strong argument may be made for an irrelevant point; the reading may be somewhat misinterpreted; a variety of arguments may be made without coming to any coherent conclusion; there may be misinterpretation or gross overgeneralization of reading. Despite these errors, the paper displays basic knowledge and the development of argumentation skills that can lead to a B paper.

D - Minimum understanding of the arguments from reading and class discussion; substantial, serious errors. Weak, unconvincing argument, for example uncritical personal response to readings without direct analysis of the author’s argument.

F - Very poor, careless, a quick rush job.

Homeworks

Homeworks are intended primarily to prepare you for in-class discussion. They will be graded on a check, check-plus, check-minus standard. A check responds thoughtfully to the assignment; a check-plus goes above and beyond the assignment requirements to say something new or interesting; a check-minus has one or more serious problems or has little thought put into it.

These grades map onto the grades above in the following way:

- Mostly checks with a sprinkling of check-pluses correspond to an A
- Mostly checks with some more or less equally divided check-pluses and check-minuses corresponds to a B
- Mostly checks with a sprinkling of check-minuses corresponds to a C
- Mostly check-minuses corresponds to a D
- Mostly check-minuses and with a sprinkling of missing assignments corresponds to an F

Lateness policy

Homeworks are intended primarily to prepare you for in-class assignments. As of 4/25, no late homeworks will be accepted. However, **your lowest homework grade will be dropped.**

On other assignments, late submission will result in a ½ letter grade drop for every day the assignment is late. Exceptions may be negotiated under special circumstances, but only when requested well in advance of the due date.