

Center for Global Education

Academic Programs Abroad

Assessment and Grading

Grades are determined by the course instructors, however students are expected to provide input into the evaluation and assessment process. At the beginning of the semester professors will give students the grading rubric they use to assess papers and presentations.

Assessment Criteria

An excellent academic paper/project is one that has taken the following into consideration:

- Analytical approach and critical depth - concisely and penetratingly asking the WHY, HOW, WHAT, WHERE AND WHO questions.
- Incorporation of multiple perspectives and multidisciplinary approaches that show their relations.
- Use of additional references, e.g. books, outside class contacts, newspapers, radio, TV, etc.
- Evidence of effective review of assigned readings.
- Discovery of new ideas, showing initiative in seeking knowledge.
- Creative, concise, articulate presentations, which reflect well thought-out arguments and a clear understanding of the issues under discussion.
- Bibliographies and footnotes, proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- Participate actively in all learning opportunities (in and out of class).
- Incorporation of affective (feeling) aspects in relation to issues and experiences in personal and community life including how the student feels about the issue.

Explanation of Grades

Augsburg College uses a numerical grading system. If you choose to take your courses for a letter grade, **you will receive a numerical grade on your transcript.**

<i>Numerical Grade</i>	<i>Letter Equivalent</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Augsburg Definition</i>
4.0	A	93-100%	Achieves highest standards of excellence
3.5	A-/B+	88-92%	
3.0	B	83-87%	Achieves above basic course standards
2.5	B-/C+	78-82%	
2.0*	C	73-77%	Meets basic standards for the course
1.5	C-/D+	68-72%	
1.0	D	63-67%	Performance below basic course standards
0.5	D-	60-62%	
0.0	F	<60%	Unacceptable performance (no course credit)

*A 2. or higher is required for a passing grade for courses designated with the "Pass/No Credit" grade option.

If you attend a school other than Augsburg, you should note that even if the grades from your program abroad do not average into your school's GPA, if you apply for graduate or professional school, you will be asked for a transcript from Augsburg on which the grades *do* appear. Therefore, you should take your courses seriously.

Grading Criteria

We believe that good evaluation of student work is an art and not a science. The grading system we use attempts to be as explicit as possible regarding the ways in which you are evaluated.

While it may vary slightly from assignment to assignment, most of your work will be graded on the following four criteria: 1) Form, 2) Content, 3) Interpretation and Analysis and 4) Connections. The instructors consider superior work to be work that fulfills the following criteria:

1. Form:

- extremely well organized
- articulates ideas clearly and concisely
- correct grammar and spelling
- legible
- accurate citation of readings and speakers (using footnotes or endnotes and bibliography)

2. Content:

- includes an articulate statement of your thesis and/or questions for further exploration
- demonstrates accurate knowledge of the subject
- scales down information to what is most important
- exhibits a profound understanding of the main points expressed by guest speakers and in required readings
- employs solid logic and well-documented data
- supports arguments with concrete examples from readings, speakers, and own experiences

3. Interpretation and Analysis:

- presents more than just a summary of information
- analyzes issues from different viewpoints
- recognizes interrelationships among issues
- draws upon assigned texts, class sessions and guest speakers to support own thesis
- makes logical arguments
- articulates complexities of the issues
- generates critical questions not addressed fully by authors or speakers
- applies principles and generalizations already learned to new information

4. Connections:

- demonstrates an understanding of the ways in which issues interrelate with each other
- integrates knowledge from diverse sources
- compares ideas of authors of required readings with each other
- makes connections between ideas raised in required readings with those of guest speakers
- takes new information acquired in the host country and effectively integrates it with prior knowledge and experiences
- synthesizes and integrates information and ideas

Grading Policy and Late Assignments

You must submit assignments on time. If you need an extension, you must talk to us **in advance** to negotiate a new deadline. If you have not been given an extension in advance and you turn in a late assignment, you will be docked half a grade (from a 4.0 to a 3.5 or 3.5 to a 3.0, 3.0 to a 2.5, 2.5 to a 2.0, etc.) If you are more than one week late, you will be docked a full grade. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original deadline; a "0" will be given after that. Assignments due near the end of the semester will not be accepted after the last day of the semester.

Augsburg Honesty Policy

You are expected to follow the Augsburg Honesty Policy which is printed in the program manual. We assume that you have read the honesty policy, understand it, and are following it. Except when the assignment expressly encourages group work, it is assumed that all course work will be your own. You may not copy other students' work. The first occurrence of plagiarism will result in the failure of the assignment. A student who commits plagiarism a second time will fail the course.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Students with formally diagnosed learning or physical differences have legal rights to course modifications. Those who qualify should identify themselves to the instructor as soon as possible in order to obtain extra assistance.

Class Participation

As CGE depends on collective and participatory learning, class attendance is required, but is not sufficient. As participation accounts for up to 20% of your course grade, it should be evident that participation is highly valued by the instructors. In this regard, please take note of the following points in relation to class participation:

1. It is not the quantity of participation that is most important; rather it is the quality of your participation that will be weighted most heavily in determining your participation grade.
2. Diverse views are important and desired as they deepen our understanding of the world and how others view it. We expect that you will both make your unique contribution and also will respect and encourage others to share their views as valid contributions to the learning process.
3. Your comments and contributions to class discussion will be more insightful if you come prepared and if you actively and carefully listen to your classmates' contributions.
4. A large portion of your participation grade will include the quality of your interaction with guest speakers. This includes showing up on time, showing appropriate respect for the speaker (including dressing appropriately and respectfully), remaining engaged in the presentation (e.g., leaning forward, retaining eye contact, smiling), and, most important, asking timely and thoughtful questions.