Grading

All papers will be graded according to the following criteria:

"sehr gut" = VERY GOOD work (1.0/1.3)

This paper is thoroughly convincing, both formally and intellectually. It goes considerably beyond a merely adequate response, and addresses its topic intelligently, perceptively, and thoughtfully. It pays close attention both to formal characteristics and historical contexts, thus managing to convey not only what a text means but also how it creates meaning. It shows critical awareness of research literature and situates this literature in larger debates and theoretical frameworks. A paper of this sort is clearly structured and well-organized. It possesses sentence variety and has virtually no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. The writing is smooth, cohesive, and vigorous. This paper stands out.

"gut" = GOOD work (1.7/2.0/2.3)

This paper does more than fulfill the assignment; it goes beyond a mere routine response and presents interesting thoughts and ideas. It addresses formal and structural questions without falling victim to the 'checklist'-approach; it shows critical awareness of the state of research. It contains no major distracting errors in style, and only a few, if any, grammatical, spelling, or diction errors. It is well developed with good supporting material and transitions. The writing is clear and free of jargon or awkward sentences.

"befriedigend" = SATISFACTORY work (2.7/3.0/3.3)

This paper is acceptable; it carries out the assignment, though in a routine way. It shows evidence of engagement with the topic and is organized around an argument that contributes to a larger conversation about this topic. It contains few distracting errors and no glaring platitudes or errors in word choice. It may have minor lapses in development, a few awkward transitions and less varied sentence structure. The argument can be followed and understood without difficulty. It's an okay paper; it meets the requirements of the assignment.

"ausreichend" = ADEQUATE work (3.7/4.0)

This paper relates to the assignment but shows no evidence of real engagement with the topic. It shows some thought, but only in a perfunctory way. It is marred by enough errors in syntax and mechanics to seriously distract the reader. Vague, ambiguous diction and phrasing make it difficult to understand the content or direction of the argument. It remains, however, an adequate effort.

"mangelhaft" and "ungenügend" = FAILING work (5.0)

This paper is seriously flawed. Its thesis is too obvious to be developed or it has no clear thesis or central topic at all. It is so poorly constructed and demonstrates so many problems with spelling, punctuation, and grammar that it is impossible to follow the sequence of ideas. It is marred by major errors in mechanics and usage, so that the message is difficult to decipher. Cases of plagiarism are also included in this category.