**Assessment criteria: ENG2500**

The final grade is set on the basis of a written term paper (7-9 standard pages à 2,300 characters.) Emphasis should be put on the ability to utilize past events in U.S 20th century history in order to understand 21th century challenges. Due to the unfortunate circumstances this semester, shorter papers may be evaluated as acceptable if the quality of the paper as a whole is sufficient.

**Excellent**

This level of answer is convincingly argued and is a perceptive response to the question, based on wide reading of course materials and independent research. The chosen event(s) from 20th century U.S history is highly relevant to the question and the student manages draw connections between the past and recent events:

* Answers the question directly and effectively.
* Uses a range of examples from academic sources and primary material to support the argument and weighs up and evaluates different specific arguments, distinguishing between them and identifies key issues.
* Has a very high standard of writing and structure, with few technical errors and correct formatting of sources.

**Good**

Work in this category provides a clearly focused answer and is well argued and supported by a sound and relevant knowledge base and understanding of the subject. It manages to connect past and present events, and has a decent level of independent analysis and argument:

* Yet, it may be missing a few critical pieces of content or have an argument that is not fully thought out or otherwise vague.
* Is based on a good range of reading.
* Is written in clear, accurate prose.
* Is well structured and makes effective use of examples and independently sourced materials to support the argument.

**Average**

Answers in this range show a partial answering of the question, with a solid, but limited, engagement with the subject, and may be rather mechanical in approach (for example, a reliance on description as a substitute for analysis):

* May have a good level of general competency and knowledge, with some use of relevant examples and a limited appreciation of different arguments and interpretations.
* Might also attempt to present an argument, but may offer a blunt analysis and/or show elements of repetition or an overly descriptive approach.
* Limited numbers of sources. Lack of distinction between primary and secondary, as well as academic research and journalistic sources.

**Poor**

Answers in this category have a poorly developed argument, based on limited reading and little preparation and study, with an over-reliance on basic source materials, and with a superficial grasp of concepts. Argument might be anachronistic and the connection between past events and the present situation is superficial:

* May lack focus, and be prone to sweeping unsubstantiated assertions, revealing confusion and errors of fact or interpretation.
* Might also have bad structure, multiple spelling errors and incorrect formatting of sources.
* May only partially answer the question, or miss the bigger picture and historical context.
* Limited independent research

**Unacceptable**

Work in this range may feature inadequate knowledge, characterized by:

* Failure to address the question set including the absence of analysis, insufficient research and evidence, bad organization and structure, and frequent grammatical and spelling errors.
* May also reflect: insignificant or no argument; superficial response; often irrelevant or tangential discussion.
* It could be inadequately informed; erroneous in matters of fact and interpretation; and/or poorly organized.