

## GRADING GUIDE – HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (bachelor SGO and master HGO)

**Course code and semester-year:** HGO4302-H18

**Type of examination:** [underline the option that applies]

Written school exam / take-home exam / term paper given topic / term paper self-chosen topic

**About exams at SGO/HGO:** A good examination paper contains solid knowledge, logical and coherent reasoning and a systematic structure. The answer to a discussion question/task must examine, analyze, and connect different parts of the curriculum.

1. The answer responds to the question/task given in a precise and exhaustive way.
2. The answer demonstrates knowledge.
3. The answer must be well-written: coherent and using good academic language.
4. Key concepts – those at the core of the answer – must be defined.
5. The answer demonstrates analytical capacity and reflection.

**Om eksamen ved SGO/HGO:** En god besvarelse inneholder solid kunnskap, logisk argumentasjon og ryddig disposisjon. Besvarelsen av en drøftingsoppgave skal være diskuterende, analytisk og koble ulike deler av pensum.

1. Besvarelsen svarer på oppgaveteksten på en presis og utfyllende måte.
2. Besvarelsen viser kunnskap.
3. Besvarelsen skal være velskrevet: sammenhengende med godt akademisk språk.
4. Viktige begreper - de som er i kjernen av besvarelsen – skal defineres.
5. Besvarelsen skal vise analytiske evne og refleksjon.

### About this course:

The goal of this course was to help students gain the knowledge and skills to account for, discuss, and critique key concepts and theories related to transformations towards sustainability, and to explain the distinctions and relationships between different perspectives on transitions and transformations. In the course paper, students were asked to connect theories (and critiques of theories) to specific cases and concrete settings in the field. The papers should link theoretical understandings of transformation to a practical, real-world example.

### About specific questions/tasks:

The exam for HGO4302 is a term paper. The topic for the term paper is decided by each student and must be within the thematic focus of the course. Most students have discussed the topic of their term paper with the professor responsible for the course. The term paper must demonstrate active engagement with the syllabus, but additional sources can also be used. The length of the paper should be maximum 6000 words plus references (up to 10% more is allowed by students have been encouraged to adhere to the maximum). Although a minimum number of words was not specified, the papers should be long enough to satisfy the requirements.

A good HGO4302-term paper is ... ☒

- Focused, systematic, clear and well structured.

- Has a line of argument, a direction.
- Is theoretically informed: includes an analytical framework and uses it in the discussion.
- Can be empirical and build on cases to be analyzed, but it is not simply descriptive.
- It provides a coherent and relevant discussion, assessing and contrasting presented material.
- Has a complete and consistent list of references.

Based on the above, the following aspects will detract from the grade:

- Limited or absent use of the course syllabus.
- Weak coherence, structure and analysis.
- Weak or absent discussion.
- Incomplete or inconsistent use of references.
- Length of paper is below 3500 words

A self-evaluation form was provided to the students, with the following guidelines (so that they could assess how their papers measure up to expectations):

- 1) Does the paper relate well to the theme of the course (i.e., transformations to sustainability)?
- 2) Does the paper include a clear “problemstilling” or thesis statement that sets out what the objective is and what aspects of transformation will be explored in your topic or case?
- 3) Does the paper use and define important concepts related to the topic?
- 4) Does the analysis refer to one or more theories of transformation discussed in the course?
- 5) Does the paper refer to relevant course literature (i.e. the pensum)?
- 6) Does the paper include proper academic referencing?
- 7) Does the paper represent a holistic and reflective analysis of transformations to sustainability, highlighting both the challenges and the possibilities?
- 8) Is the paper well-written, using academic language (i.e., it should not be written as a first-person, opinion paper)
- 9) Is the paper within the maximum limit of 6,000 words, not including references?
- 10) Does the paper reflect strong knowledge and insights related to transformations for the issue of focus?

Grades used for papers:

### **A – Excellent**

An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking.

**B – Very good**

A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgement and a very good degree of independent thinking.

**C – Good**

A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of judgement and independent thinking in the most important areas.

**D – Satisfactory**

A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.

**E – Sufficient**

A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.

**F – Fail**

A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The candidate demonstrates an absence of both judgement and independent thinking.