

Appendix: NYU AFRICANA MA EVALUATION RUBRIC

NYU Africana Studies Program in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Reader's Name: _____

	Excellent	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Reader Assessment (Excellent, Acceptable or Unacceptable) and Comments:
Thesis Statement and Introduction	Clearly stated thesis statement that provides reader with a strong sense of the type of evidence to follow. Provides a thoughtful statement of the broad significance of the research. Reveals the organizational structure of the paper. Guides the reader smoothly and logically into the body of the paper.	Thesis statement is articulated and gives the reader a reasonably good sense of the type of evidence that will follow. Provides a solid introduction to the research, but does discuss the broader significance in a satisfactory manner.	Thesis statement is insufficiently articulated and the introduction does not guide the reader into the body of the paper. Poorly written, incomplete and lacks structure.	
Literature	Places the work within a larger context. Integrates relevant material well. Builds a strong case for the research. Appropriate sources employed and engaged critically.	Cites most of the key literature. Sources consulted and employed properly, but synthesis is lacking.	There are inaccuracies: Fails to cite or misinterprets important, relevant literature. Sources used improperly or inadequately.	

Methodological Framework(s)	Uses original methodology or existing methodology in creative ways. Design of study shows comprehensive grasp of methods used. Discusses methodological parameters, which may include limitations of the methodology used, biases of methodology used.	Demonstrates competent use of existing methods.	Uses the wrong methodology (i.e. not well justified) or uses the methodology incorrectly. Data are not handled appropriately.	
Evidence/Argumentation	Evidence used to support the central point is rich, detailed and well chosen. Evidence sections employ appropriate illustrations and/or quotations. The connection between argument and evidence is clearly and compellingly articulated in all cases. Where applicable, important opposing evidence (i.e. evidence that might seem to contradict argument) is considered and convincingly refuted.	Evidence used to support the central point is well chosen, though not particularly rich or detailed. The connection between argument and evidence is clearly articulated. Where applicable, some opposing evidence is considered and refuted.	Connection between argument and evidence is not clearly articulated in all cases. Evidence used does not clearly support the main argument. Where applicable, consideration of opposing evidence is cursory or the evidence is not convincingly refuted. Or, important opposing evidence is ignored, thereby weakening the central argument.	
Conclusion	Elegantly synthesizes and reframes key points from the paper. Suggests new perspectives or questions relevant to the central argument, and brings closure. Suggests future directions.	Synthesizes and brings closure, but does not examine new perspectives or questions.	Is altogether missing or cursory. Restates the same points as the topic paragraph/intro without reframing them. Introduces new material rather than new perspectives.	

Organization	Organization of paper as a whole is logical and quickly apparent. Writing is precise and unambiguous. Transitions between paragraphs are smooth.	Organization of paper as a whole is logical and apparent, but transitions between paragraphs are not consistently smooth. For the most part, the parts of each paragraph connect logically and effectively. Paper is for the most part precisely worded and unambiguous.	Organization of the paper as a whole can only be discerned with effort. Not all parts of the paper fit the organizational structure. Not all the parts of the paper are effectively integrated. Paper lack fluidity. Wording is imprecise or ambiguous fairly often.	
Mechanics	Paper is clean and appropriately formatted. There are no incomplete or run-on sentences. Quotations and sources are all properly attributed and cited. There are virtually no spelling or grammatical errors. MLA guidelines are properly followed.	There are a few minor spelling or grammatical errors. Quotations and sources are all properly attributed and cited. MLA guidelines are generally followed.	Paper is unacceptably sloppy. There are a number of spelling and grammatical errors. Quotations and sources are frequently not attributed or improperly cited. No adherence to MLA guidelines.	

Overall Comments:

Please check one of the following:

Pass_____ **Pass with revisions**_____ (**Revisions due:**_____) **Fail**_____ **High Pass**_____

(A Pass may be assigned with at least 5 Acceptable assessments; A Fail may be assigned with 5 or more unacceptable assessments, A High Pass may be assigned with all assessments above Acceptable and at least 5 Excellent assessments).

Reader's Signature: _____

A copy goes to student and a copy is submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator.