

UBC Geography 419: Research in Environmental Geography

Final Paper Marking Rubric.

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Final Paper Guidelines.

The term paper is due on **Monday april 19**. Please hand it in to the main geography office, room 217, where the staff will date-stamp it for you. Late papers will be penalized by 10% per day. The paper should be 11 to 12 pages long, not including bibliography, figures etc (approx 3000 words); it is worth 30% of your final mark.

It is very important to me that you have incorporated the feedback that I have given you in response to each cumulative stage of this project, and that you have treated your topic to the very best of your abilities. What this means is rather than merely explaining your issue, you also go some distance to exploring your preferred solution and that you can argue your case against anybody who would care to disagree with you. Assume that I, as the marker, do not agree with your argument!

Maps, graphs and charts are good, so long as they add weight to your argument. They are not tools for filling up space. Most of you are in the situation whereby you have too much to say for such a short paper. If this describes your situation then these are good tools for communicating complex ideas in less space than it would take to do so using prose. I am thrilled that you are all beyond the stage of aiming to meet minimum word counts and are now struggling to find ways to communicate your message in the most effective ways possible.

I look forward to reading all of your papers and will let you know when and where you can pick them up again (likely the GIC). If you prefer, I can send your marked essay to you in the mail. If you want that to happen, please give me an addressed, postage-paid envelope with your paper when you hand it in.

The marking rubric is as follows,

Empirical Content:

- clear thesis statement or question to be answered
- argument or question is logical, well explored, analytical
- evidence is adequate, accurate and supports claims being made
- paper anticipates and defuses counter-arguments
- student is critical of sources
- student takes a stand on the issue and recommends a path towards possible solution
- student clearly delimits paper's bounds, and suggests avenues for future work

Creativity:

- paper is insightful
- topic covered in sufficient depth
- original, innovative, creative

Structural Elements:

- appropriate length
- writing is clear, careful and polished
- maps, figures, tables are clear, relevant, and well-integrated
- consistent use of proper citations
- proper bibliography with sufficient use of relevant scholarly sources

I look forward to reading your papers!