Grading Guidelines for JAP4610: Readings in Japanese Studies, Spring 2025

This reading course is designed to meet the individual needs of Master's students within the programme option Japanese Studies after the student has selected a topic of the master's thesis and has been assigned a supervisor. In consultation with the supervisor, you compile your own reading list on a subject area related to the topic of your planned Master's thesis. The choice of literature should provide a good general basis of information on your topic and its wider significance. The literature should include a broad range of issues and perspectives. The reading list should be around 1000 pages and must be approved by your supervisor. At least 10% of the reading list should be in Japanese. If the subject area is closely related to lower-level courses, the reading list must be more advanced (representing in-depth theoretical or thematic study) and cannot include literature that has been used at earlier levels.

The exam is a review paper of 8-10 pages, not including a front page and bibliography. The review paper should summarize and present a research debate in an independent and reflected manner, focusing on between 3-6 sources, at least one of which is a Japanese-language source.

Grading Guidelines

A: Papers that receive the highest mark should be of a very high overall standard. They should be focused, concise, well-written, and well-referenced. Papers that receive an A are distinguished by the depth, clarity, and thoroughness of the discussion and analysis, and by thoughtful reflection on how the selected literature helps to develop the MA project.

B: Papers that receive this mark are of a high overall standard, with significant strengths in multiple areas.

C: Papers that receive this mark are of a good overall standard. Shortcomings in some areas may be balanced out by strengths in others.

D: Papers that receive this mark have shortcomings that relate to either formal or substantial content.

E-F: Papers that receive one of these marks do not meet the academic standard either formally or substantially.