

Grading guidelines KOS1500 Fall 2025

This course introduces students to core themes in translational medical humanities and explores how perspectives from the humanities and the medical sciences can be brought together to address urgent societal challenges. Throughout the semester, students have engaged with online lectures, course readings, and written/oral assignments, and they have received feedback on drafts for their presentations.

The exam requires students to make **conscious and well-reasoned choices** in how they apply course concepts to their empirical case. The assignment is open-ended, which means that an important criterion is the student's ability to **select relevant cases and readings** and connect them meaningfully to each other.

Assessment will emphasize two main dimensions:

1. **Understanding and overview of the course material**, and
2. **The ability to make analytical connections**, particularly regarding the science–policy–action challenge and the how notions of translation can be used to address it.

Good presentations will accurately and precisely account for arguments from the readings and discuss them in relation to their case. Stronger submissions will demonstrate how insights from both the humanities and the medical/health sciences contribute to understanding the student's chosen case, and how translational theory can illuminate shifts in meaning, communication challenges, and tensions between science, policy, and action.

Presentations that show a general understanding of course material but offer limited analytical connections will typically fall in the **C–D range**. Presentations that demonstrate both solid understanding and the ability to **mobilize readings to make meaningful analytical connections** - including connections across different theories of translation - will typically fall in the **A–B range**.

Candidates are required to draw explicitly on **readings from the curriculum** and to use them analytically rather than descriptively. The best presentations construct a clear and convincing argument that integrates conceptual and empirical elements and shows independent thinking.

Visuals such as PowerPoint slides may be used when relevant to support the argument.