

Unit for History and Philosophy of Science

Guidelines on Marking

The section indicates broadly the qualitative judgements implied by the various marks which are awarded. A more precise evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of individual assignments will be provided in examiners' comments/feedback.

Mark of a **Fail** (below 50) indicates that your work is not of acceptable standard overall, and/or you have failed to achieve a 50% in some component of the UoS. You may receive a fail for a particular assessment for any or all of the following reasons: unacceptable levels of paraphrasing or lack of citation (see also the policy on Academic Honesty); irrelevance of content; careless or sloppy presentation, grammar, or argument structure such that it is difficult to understand the claims being made; evidence of inadequate knowledge or understanding of readings or lectures; or late submission without extension via the Faculty special considerations procedure.

For a **(Low) Pass (50-57)**, you must complete all of the assignments and exams of the Unit of Study, as outlined in the section on assessment of the course syllabus. In addition, in a particular assessment, you should have been able to identify and describe the principal issues related to the assessment; and present organised, comprehensible oral and written arguments for particular positions supported by appropriate scholarly documentation. However, written work typically includes evidence of very minimal reading and limited understanding of the set readings and subject matter, and may have a tendency to rely on paraphrasing.

For a **(High) Pass (58-64)**, you must do everything required for a low pass, plus provide synthesis and some evaluation of relevant material and arguments with a logical and comprehensible structure; evidence a broad and fairly accurate command of the set readings and subject matter; and exhibit efforts to go beyond the basic lecture material particularly to explore diverse interpretations of the subject matter. However, written work or presentations typically have weaknesses in clarity or structure, and show a somewhat limited command of the subject matter or its broader significance.

For a **Credit (65-74)**, you must do everything required for a high pass, plus go beyond mere identification of the relevant issues, to criticise particular positions; exhibit comprehensive reading and critical evaluation of the course materials including their broader theoretical significance; and provide well-defended, coherent arguments based on solid scholarly research as well as some evidence of independent thought and initiative. A low (65-69) credit indicates competent work, demonstrating the potential to pursue honours work, though further development would be needed to do so successfully; a high (70-74) credit demonstrates a clear capacity to pursue honours.

For a **Distinction (75-84)**, you must do everything required for a credit, plus demonstrate initiative in research and reading; show a complex understanding and original, creative analysis of the subject matter and its context; and take a critical stance in relation to the underlying assumptions in the field as well as the theoretical arguments and their

interpretations associated with the course topics. Your written work and presentations must be properly documented, and writing is characterised by scholarly style, clarity, and some creativity.

For a **High Distinction (85+)**, you must do everything required for a distinction, plus submit work that is consistently of an exceptional standard; exhibit considerable initiative and ingenuity in research and reading; provide innovative interpretations and arguments including insightful contributions to theoretical debates; and develop abstract or theoretical arguments based on detailed research and original interpretation. Your written work must be characterised by a high degree of creativity, scholarly style, and precision.