INFORMATION ON CRITICAL ESSAY WRITING

The aim of the essay is to show that you have read the pertinent literature but also contribute something original to previous research from your personal point of view in an academic way. Coherence of argument, originality, structure and expression will all be criteria for assessment. If you have not written critical essays before, I recommend to read literature on academic writing in the Hokudai library or on the internet. The essays are an exercise to prepare you for academic writing in the future.

**Grading rubric**

90-100 (A to A+)

1. Develops a sophisticated and intelligent argument, engaging with the ideas proposed in the reading.
2. Displays strong critical thinking and analytical skills and may provide evidence of original thinking.
3. Essay is well-structured and logical, conforming to academic style.

80-89 (B+ to A-)

1. Develops a clear and focused argument, using a sustained train of logical thought.
2. Shows evidence of critical thinking.
3. Essays is structured conforming to academic style.

70-79 (B- to B)

1. Demonstrates some understanding of relevant issues referred to in the reading.
2. Shows evidence of a clear train of thought or analytical argument at various points.
3. Essay is partially structured according to academic style.

60-69 (C to C+)

1. Provides clear evidence of misunderstandings in the essay or fails to engage with the arguments proposed in the reading.
2. Shows some awareness and understanding of pertaining issues but demonstrates limited ability to develop them.
3. Essay is partially structured according to academic style.

Below 59 (D to F)

1. Failed to demonstrate knowledge of relevant arguments.
2. Contained clear errors or misunderstandings of relevant issues.
3. Did not develop an argument.
4. Poorly organized and/or poorly written.
5. Evidence of plagiarism, fabrication of data or other academic misconduct.