Grading Criteria*

An 'A' is not assumed, it must be earned!	A	B	C	D-E	Possible (50 tot.)
Thesis paragraph	Clearly and eloquently identifies a demonstrable and nuanced central argument. Provides the reader with a clear sense of the nature of evidence that will follow. Reveals the organizational structure of the paper. Guides the reader smoothly and logically into the body of the paper. (4.5 - 5 points)	Thesis paragraph clearly identifies a demonstrable central argument. Gives the reader a reasonably good sense of the nature of evidence that will follow. (4 points)	Thesis paragraph identifies some argument, though not stated sufficiently clearly. Or, the thesis statement only roughly maps onto the actual argument in the paper. Does not guide the reader into the body of the paper smoothly. (3.0 - 3.5 points)	Thesis paragraph does not have a discernable central argument. There is no guiding statement for the paper to give the reader direction as to structure or content. (≤ 2 points)	**5**
Depth of analysis	Paper goes beyond the readings/lecture content to explore the implications of arguments or evidence in new contexts or in particularly thoughtful, insightful, and/or original ways. This exceptional argument and analysis represents a clearly demonstrated capacity to 'think anthropologically' about the chosen subject matter. In sum, the paper shows a nuanced grasp of anthropological principles and the ability to apply these principles with great facility to areas beyond those discussed in class. (9-10 points)	Paper fully meets the parameters of the assignment but does not exceed them. Paper demonstrates a good grasp of anthropological principles but does not necessarily excel in their application. Paper demonstrates good, clear anthropological thinking, but doesn't excel in applying this thinking to novel content (beyond the readings and lectures). (8 points)	Paper does not address some aspects of the assignment. (and/or…) Paper demonstrates a somewhat shaky grasp of anthropological principles. (7 points)	Paper does not address the assignment. (and/or…) Paper is inconsistent with anthropological principles (i.e. it uncritically makes or fails to challenge ethnocentric assumptions or other concepts clearly covered in the course.) (≤ 6 points)	**10**
Grasp of reading(s)	Paper incorporates relevant material from readings and class discussion. Paper represents the authors' arguments, evidence and conclusions accurately, fairly and eloquently. Demonstrates a firm understanding of the nuanced implications of the author's arguments. An exceptional paper addresses and refutes possible opposing evidence to the main thesis and/or its supporting evidence. While doing do, it demonstrates a clear facility in the nuance of the theoretical arguments covered in the course. (9-10 points)	Paper adequately incorporates relevant material from readings and class discussion. Paper represents the author's arguments, evidence and conclusions accurately. Some of the finer nuance in the arguments may be glossed over. (and/or…) Arguments from readings/lecture could have been applied more effectively. Possible opposing evidence is presented, but could have been better refuted. (8 points)	Paper represents the authors' arguments, evidence and conclusions with only minor errors or perhaps not sufficiently clearly. (and/or…) There are minor inaccuracies. (and/or...) Opposing evidence is presented but not sufficiently refuted. (7 points)	Paper badly misrepresents the authors' arguments, evidence, and/or conclusions. (and/or…) Paper fails to introduce or address possible opposing evidence. (≤ 6 points)	**10**
Evidence	Clear and persuasive evidence is used to back up a novel argument. Evidence is rich, detailed and well chosen, providing unambiguous support for the argument. The connection between argument and evidence is clearly and compellingly articulated in all cases. Where appropriate, quotations and documentable citations are included. Relevant opposing evidence is considered and convincingly refuted. (4.5 - 5 points)	Evidence used to support the central point is well chosen and articulated. The paper constructs a familiar argument in new terms, and wields adequate evidence to back up the argument in doing so. The connection between argument and evidence is well articulated, though in some cases not particularly rich or detailed. Some opposing evidence (i.e. evidence that might seem to contradict your argument) is considered and refuted effectively. (4 points)	Connection between argument and evidence is not clearly articulated in all cases. (and/or…) (Where applicable) Consideration of opposing evidence is cursory or missing and such evidence is not convincingly refuted. (3 points)	Evidence used does not clearly support the main argument. (and/or…) (Where applicable) Important opposing evidence is ignored, thereby weakening the central argument. (≤ 3 points)	**5**
Conclusion	Elegantly synthesizes and reframes key points from the paper, leaving no question as to the central argument of the paper and its structure. Suggests new perspectives or questions relevant to the central argument, and brings closure. (4.5 - 5 points)	Adequately synthesizes and brings closure to the paper. Adequate summary of the argument, but does not excel in making the novel nature of the argument clear. (4 points)	Restates the same points as the topic paragraph without reframing them. (and/or…) Introduces new material rather than new perspectives. (3 points)	Is missing or cursory. (and/or…) Repeats the topic paragraph more-or-less verbatim. (≤ 3 points)	**5**
Organization	Paper is organized in a logical manner that clearly & efficiently guides the reader through the premises, points of argument, and conclusions drawn, making it easy to pick out key points and the central argument without effort. Connections among paragraphs are clearly articulated. Transitions between paragraphs are smooth, making it a pleasure to read. Every paragraph makes one distinct and coherent point, expressed in a clear topic sentence; the parts of each paragraph connect logically and persuasively, and internal transitions are smooth. (4.5 - 5 points)	Paper is logically organized with a good general structure. It adequately accomplishes elements of good style and structure but does not exceed in doing so. This may be a result of lacking transitions that could have guided the reader more naturally through the argument, paragraph structure that could have felt more natural to read (better flow from one statement to the next). Every paragraph makes one distinct and coherent point and, for the most part, the parts of each paragraph connect logically and effectively. In all but a few cases, the paragraph's point is expressed in a clear topic sentence. (4 points)	Organization of the paper as a whole can only be discerned with effort. (and/or…) Not all parts of the paper fit the organizational structure. (and/or…) Not all the parts of the paper are effectively integrated. In a number of paragraphs, there is not a distinct or coherent point. (and/or) Topic sentences are missing or unclear in a number of paragraphs. (and/or) The parts of the paper do not connect logically. (3 points)	Organization of the paper as a whole is not logical or discernable. (≤ 3 points)	**5**
Clarity	Throughout the paper, wording is precise and unambiguous. The paper excels in making concise statements the adeptly convey the core argument. Sentence structure is consistently clear and lucid. Quotations are all framed effectively in the text (i.e. integrated properly in terms of both grammar and meaning) and explicated where necessary. (4.5 - 5 points)	Paper is for the most part precisely worded and unambiguous. Sentence structure is mostly clear. Quotations are framed effectively in the text. (4 points)	Wording is imprecise or ambiguous fairly often. (and/or…) Sentence structure is often confusing. (and/or…) Quotations are not framed effectively in the text. (3 points)	Throughout the paper, wording is imprecise or ambiguous. (and/or…) Sentence structure is consistently confusing. (and/or...) Grammar issues severely hamper the reader's ability to follow the content of the paper. (≤ 3 points)	**5**
Mechanics	Paper is clean and appropriately formatted. There are no incomplete or run-on sentences. Quotes are all properly attributed and cited. There are no spelling or grammatical errors. All cited material is appropriately cited in the text and the paper includes a Chicago (author-date) formatted references cited section at the end. (4.5 - 5 points)	There are a few minor spelling or grammatical errors. Quotes are all properly attributed and cited. One or two minor errors in the in-text citations or references cited section, which largely follows Chicago (author-date) format. (4 points)	There are a number of spelling and grammatical errors. (and/or) In a few places, quotes and references needing citation are not attributed and cited properly. Citations are largely complete, but not in the correct format. (3.5 points)	Paper is unacceptably sloppy. (and/or…) Quotes are frequently not attributed or improperly cited. There are serious gaps in the level of citation, either in text or in the references cited section. (≤ 3 points)	**5**