

## Guide for writing essays in ATH 305 Peoples and Cultures of Latin America

Criteria	A good paper manifests these qualities:	An excellent paper develop <i>also</i> :
1. Problem or Issue	Clearly identifies a main problem or issue, and summarizes it in relation to essay questions.	Examines several dimensions of the problem or issue and relationships among them.
2. Evidence	Presents supporting evidence from course materials in the form of information, ethnographic descriptions, examples, and quotes. Identifies the sources and assesses the quality of this evidence.	Provides evidence from additional readings, films, news, class discussions.
3. Concepts, assumptions, theories	Identifies ideas, approaches and methods that shape the arguments of authors and/or the people whom they describe: i.e. machismo, gender, contradictory consciousness, modernization or dependency theory, nationalism, revolution, liberation theology, critical race theory, feminism, etc.	Assesses the relevance and implications of specific concepts and assumptions.
4. Context	Locates the authors and/or the people or events that they describe in appropriate cultural, social, national, disciplinary, political, religious and/or historical contexts.	Make connections between the context and the way people think, talk, and act.
5. Perspectives	Compares perspectives of different people or groups described. Compares different ways of analyzing or interpreting the material.	Discusses implications of competing perspectives on issue.
6. Student's analysis or point of view	Presents student's own perspective and position. Raises own questions, critiques, or doubts about the author's message and perspective.	Identifies students' assumptions, stereotypes or prejudices that were somehow challenged or shifted in the process of working with material.
7. Conclusions, implications, consequences	Identifies and discusses conclusions and/or consequences of given perspectives or analyses on the issue at hand.	Considers information and context in identifying implications of the arguments and issues.
8. Write well	Shows correct grammar, and correct punctuation. Quotes, ideas and paraphrases are properly attributed to original sources and references listed at end of essay.	Demonstrates good organization, no gratuitous repetition, strong and compelling prose.