

GLOBAL STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: BOOK REVIEW

Descriptor	Grade Band	Mark Range	Typical Mark	Description
Outstanding (85-100)	1 st – Highest	93-100	93 or 100	Outstanding attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A book review in this category clearly and consistently surpasses normal expectations, in terms of scholarship, for the relevant level of study. Work in this category typically meets the expectations of ‘excellent’ work and also: introduces original ideas and insights; is comprehensive (relative to the level of study) in its identification of the wider empirical and/or theoretical literature to which the book contributes; is uniquely perceptive at evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the book; integrates the student’s own approach within wider scholarly frameworks and generates new questions for research; is exceptionally well written; is referenced to a professional standard.
	1 st – Outstanding	85-92	88	
Excellent (70-84)	1 st – High	80-84	82	Excellent attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A book review in this category typically: reflects excellent knowledge of the book and engages directly and in-depth with relevant themes from it; has excellent structure and organisation of material; reflects superior analysis of the book’s themes, demonstrating very well-informed academic evaluation of the argument; successfully evaluates the book’s strengths and weaknesses; demonstrates an excellent ability to engage with broader empirical and/or theoretical questions; exhibits comprehensive knowledge of the topic and relates the student’s reading of the book to broader issues in the field or discipline; contains very few referencing errors; follows all presentation requirements; is clearly and fluently written.
	1 st – Mid	75-79	77	
	1 st – Low	70-74	72	
Good to Very Good (60-69)	2.1 – High	67-69	68	Good to very good attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A book review in this category typically: reflects good knowledge of the book and engages directly with relevant themes from it; has good structure and organisation of material; reflects good analysis of the book’s themes, demonstrating well-informed academic evaluation of the argument; successfully evaluates the book’s strengths and weaknesses; demonstrates a good ability to engage with broader empirical and/or theoretical questions; exhibits good knowledge of the topic and situates the book in the wider field or discipline; contains few referencing errors; follows all presentation requirements; is written clearly in a comprehensible way.
	2.1 – Mid	64-66	65	
	2.1 – Low	60-63	62	
Satisfactory (50-59)	2.2 – High	57-59	58	Satisfactory attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A book review in this category typically: reflects knowledge or understanding of the book’s themes; makes an attempt to structure and organise the material (which may be more effective at the higher end of the grade band and less effective at the lower end); contains satisfactory analysis of the book’s themes, demonstrating academically informed evaluation of the argument (although this may be under-developed or over-simplified); demonstrates some ability to engage with broader empirical and/or theoretical questions; shows knowledge of appropriate referencing practice but this may be inconsistently applied; follows most presentation requirements; is written in a generally comprehensible way, though may contain writing errors.
	2.2 – Mid	54-56	55	
	2.2 – Low	50-53	52	
Weak (40-49)	3 rd – High	47-49	48	Weak attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A book review in this category typically: reflects limited knowledge or understanding of the book’s themes; has weak structure and organisation of material; contains weak analysis of the book’s themes and may misinterpret some arguments; shows some knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; follows some presentation requirements; may be unclearly written.
	3 rd – Mid	44-46	45	
	3 rd – Low	40-43	42	

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Poor (20-39)	Borderline Fail	35-39	37	Poor attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A book review in this category typically: reflects very limited knowledge or understanding of the book's themes; is poorly structured and organised; contains poor (or little) analysis of the book's themes; may contain a significant amount of irrelevant material; may show limited knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; may be deficient in length against the word count to an extent that noticeably undermines its scholarly quality; may be extremely unclearly written and/or presented.
	Fail	20-34	30	
Very Poor (1-19)	Bad Fail	1-19	15	Very poor attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A book review in this category typically: reflects almost no knowledge or understanding of the book's themes; is very poorly structured and organised; contains no analysis of the book's themes; may contain a significant amount of irrelevant material; may show very limited knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; may be deficient in length against the word count to an extent that significantly undermines its scholarly quality; may be extremely unclearly written and/or presented.
Absence of Positive Qualities (0)	Zero	0	0	No demonstrable attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A book review in this category typically: has not been submitted; is not the coursework that has been assigned; has been submitted after the late-penalty period has elapsed; and/or has had a penalty applied for major academic misconduct.