

Grading Criteria for ME4001 Coursework

Are they answering the question that was set? [content]—Was it sufficiently investigated? Does the investigation show any signs rigor? (Good use of respected authorities? Good compromise between depth and breadth, given time and space requirements.)

Did they take notice of the formatting and structural conventions that were spoken of in the Report Writing presentation?—Did they use headings? Are the sections in the order as was presented in the lectures? Are the sections logically titled? Does the content of the section inform sufficiently? Does the report present data and results appropriately and adequately? Is the data accurately presented? Are tables and graphs appropriately labelled? Does the report exhibit consistent design? Does the report look professional?

Are they communicating clearly?—Can I understand what they are on about? Are their sentences clear? Do they use paragraphing? Are their paragraphs unified, cohesive and coherent? Can I make predictions about what is about to be said from what I am currently reading (especially in the case of headings and titles)?

Are they attempting to write in the formal, academic style conventionally adopted by engineers?—Are they mixing informal and formal word choices and structures? Are they overstating the case? Do they give credit to their sources? Are they infusing emotion into their paper or does their writing reflect an objectivity that is the mark of a good engineer? Do they sound like engineers? (...do they define, describe, explain, report on the relevant work of others, discuss, analyze, categorize, classify, evaluate using appropriate criteria for measurement, refer to and describe tools and procedures, etc.? ...do they use language similar to that used by the engineers we read in tutorials (lexical density and complexity, constituency of word type, clause structure, presence and arrangement of ideas or information typically imparted by engineers).

Are they documenting their sources and using the assigned documentation style sheet?—are they using Harvard Style? Are they formatting parenthetical citations and the report-final references to which the citations refer consistently? Can I follow their references to their source (is there sufficient information)? Have they plagiarized a source?

Each category has a potential score of 20. $5 \times 15 = 75$.

75%+ is particularly exemplary performance

First Class (A1/A2 - 70%+) (so 75%+ = A1, 70-74%=A2; 60-64%=B2, 65-69%=B1, etc.)

Upper Second Class 2:1 (B1/B2 - 60-69%)

Lower Second Class 2:2 (B3 - 55-59%)

Third Class Upper Pass (C1/C2 - 49-54%)

Third Class Lower Pass (C3 - 40-44%)

Fail (D1/D2/F/NG - 0-39%)