

## MA International Relations: Assessment Criteria for Seminar Papers (“Paper Virtues”)

### Formalities

- The paper is flawless in terms of spelling, quality of articulation, and formal presentation (cover sheet, table of contents, page numbers, reference list, etc).
- The paper is based on the relevant scientific literature, which is referenced in accordance with the rules described in the MAIR Stylesheet.

### Structure

- The research question is stated clearly in the introduction. Its empirical and theoretical relevance is adequately elaborated and discussed.
- The structure of the paper clearly reflects the research question. Each part of the paper makes a specific contribution to answering this question. It is always apparent what this contribution is, why it is needed to answer the question, and how it fits into the overall argument.

### Analysis

- Concerning empirical (aspects of) papers: the paper draws on relevant theories, discusses relevant hypotheses, and uses relevant quantitative or qualitative evidence to answer the research question.
- Concerning theoretical (aspects of) papers: definitions, concepts, arguments, and normative statements are clearly explained. Their theoretical significance is appropriately discussed and critically evaluated.

### Presentation

- The empirical data is appropriately presented and discussed.
- The theoretical concepts and arguments are clearly and correctly described.
- The sources of empirical evidence or theoretical concepts are correctly cited.

### Originality

- Ideally, in answering its research question, the paper goes beyond a restatement of known empirical facts or established theoretical arguments. It may introduce, for example, a novel interpretation of an existing body of literature or draw attention to an empirical pattern that has not received appropriate attention in the literature so far.