

Evaluation guide

MSA265 Energy, Societal Safety and Sustainable Development, Spring 2018

Guiding principles

- Students have been informed that independent and critical thinking is a major evaluation criteria
- Students have also been informed that it is necessary to supplement references to points made in the curriculum with independent thoughts and that they are expected to engage actively with the curriculum.
- The exam is largely about abstract concepts. Students are therefore expected to be able to demonstrate their multi-faceted nature by recognizing that their meaning is not necessarily uniform.
- Students have been told that they are allowed to delimitate their response if they find that the question is too broad.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE ANSWERED 3 OUT OF 4 ASSIGNMENTS*

Assignment-specific considerations

Assignment 1: Conceptualize food security, including at least three aspects of the term

For this assignment I expect an answer of 1-3 paragraphs (one could argue that conceptualizing it in one paragraph is more challenging than doing it in 2+ paragraphs), where the multi-faceted nature of the concept is explicitly shown. Examples of “aspects” are food security in relation to international trade, scarcity vs. unaffordability, health, food sovereignty, climate change, population growth, urbanization, disasters, policy failure or discrimination.

Assignment 2: Discuss the statement «there is no such thing as a natural disaster»

Submissions for this assignment should, as a minimum, elaborate on the idea that disasters are produced by society and not by nature (reflecting an anti-determinist or political ecological perspective). Outstanding submissions may/should also reflect on the role of climate change in relation to this statement, and ideally demonstrate independent reflections on the concept of disaster.

Assignment 3: Provide one positive and one negative example of a nexus problem (inter-connected food, water, energy and environmental security problem).

This assignment should consider both a positive inter-connection between food, water, energy and environmental services, as well as a negative dependency between food, water, energy and environmental challenges. Because I have said that students may delimitate their answers, it may also be acceptable to only consider partial inter-linkages, like limiting the response to how food security depends on energy security. However, if a narrow delimitation is made, I would generally expect it to be more insightful than one considering the entire nexus.

*note that there was also a 4th assignment in this exam that has been removed from this sample