Seminar Rubric

Written Communication Skills
1. Grammatical Correctness (Sentence Level)
   a. Inadequate: Sentences and paragraphs are hard to read due to poor grammar or mechanics.
   b. Needs Improvement: The essay contains numerous grammatical and mechanical errors.
   c. Adequate: The essay contains minimal grammatical and mechanical errors.
   d. Excellent: The essay is clear, containing no grammatical and mechanical errors.

2. Clarity (Paragraph Level)
   a. Inadequate: There is no apparent organization to the paragraphs of the essay.
   b. Needs Improvement: The essay is difficult to follow because of some combination of poor transitions and rambling paragraph content.
   c. Adequate: Paragraphs are structured so as to present easily discerned ideas and are connected by basic transitions.
   d. Excellent: Ideas are effectively presented in well-designed paragraphs. As a result the essay is easy to follow.

3. Structure and Presentation (Whole Essay)
   a. Inadequate: No visible organization. Thoughts presented do not appear organized or logical.
   b. Needs Improvement: Some thoughts are discernable, but the essay is lacks sufficient organization to make an effective argument.
   c. Adequate: Basic ideas are logically presented, but the essay is flat or draws inappropriate conclusions from the ideas presented.
   d. Excellent: The essay presents its ideas and conclusions logically, clearly and effectively.

4. Appropriateness Relative to Assignment
   a. Inadequate: The essay is not responsive to the theme and structure required in the assignment.
   b. Needs Improvement: The essay is only peripherally related to the assigned topic or examines the topic in a different way than that is required.
   c. Adequate: The essay is on the assigned topic but may not include all aspects of the topic expected for the assignment.
   d. Excellent: The essay addresses the assigned topic directly in the form required.