

# Intro to Legal Studies

Paper One Comments

# Common Problems

- Thesis-related issues
- Clarity/Use of Language
- Grammar
- Broad Statements
- Moral Arguments
- Weak Analysis

# Thesis Matters

**These problems impact the entire paper**

- No thesis
- Thesis unrelated to the evidence
- Overly broad or general thesis

# Clarity/Language

- Lack of concision
- Misuse of words
  - Particularly the misuse of “implicate”
- Use of \$20 words when a ¢5 word will do

# Grammar

- Links up to issues of clarity
  - Rules of grammar are there to help us communicate with one another more clearly
- Overly complicated sentences, with too many words make it difficult of impossible for reader to understand your point

# Broad Statements

- Broad statements are hard to support and easily undermined by counterargument
- i.e. “No one follows the law because of fear of punishment.” “Americans believe...”

# Moral Arguments

- Papers sometimes made normative moral arguments about the way the world *should* work
- We asked you to use the readings to make an empirical argument about the way things are, according to scholars who have thought about or studied the topic
- Don't tell us about the morality of law, rather tell us about the role of morality in the construction of or obedience to law.

# Lack of Analysis

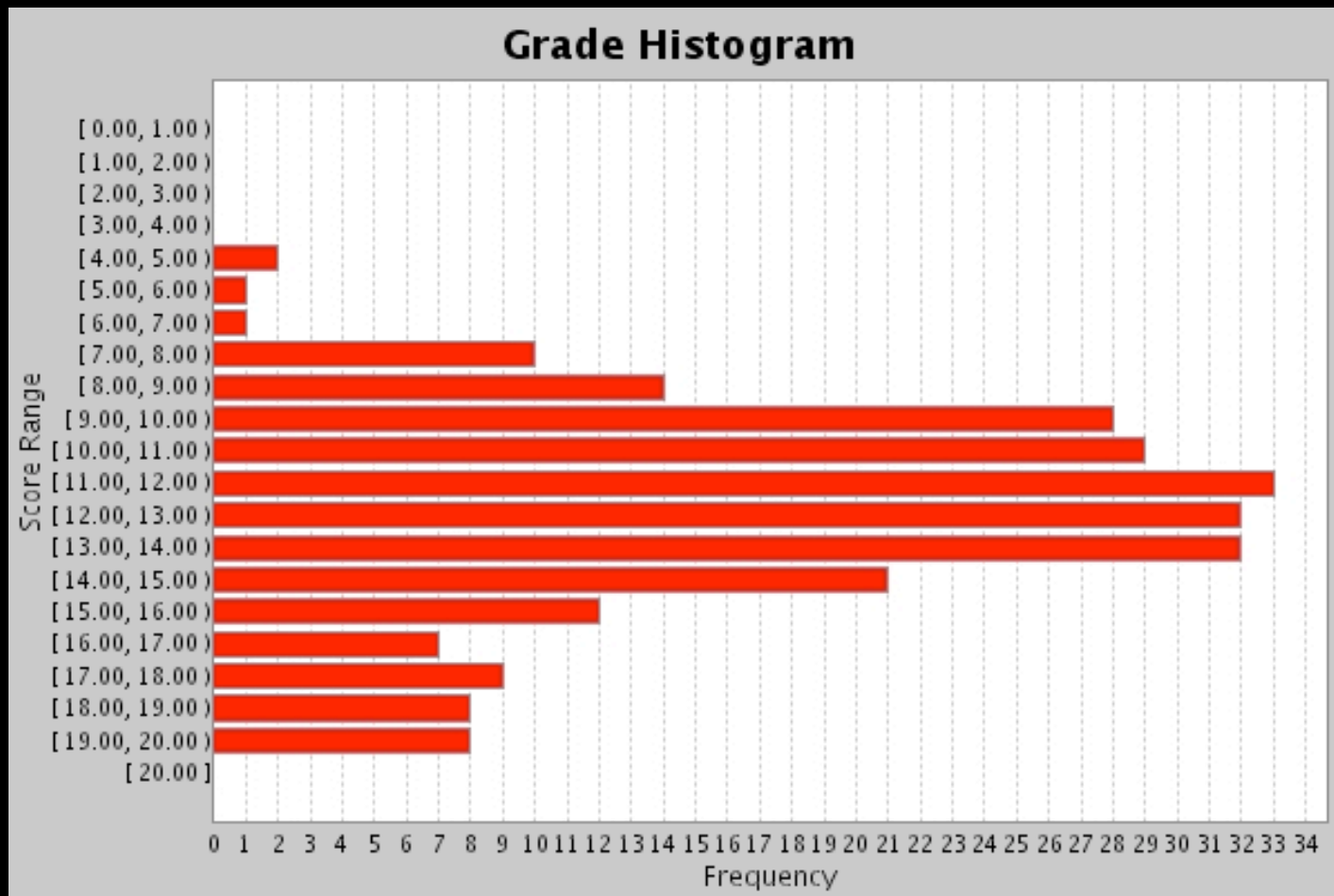
- A common and recurring issue
- We don't want you to simply parrot back the readings, but to make an argument and analyze the readings in order to support your thesis.

# Want to discuss further?

- Note that Paper Two is worth 35% of your grade
- Read over your paper and any comments
- Look at the grade sheet and see where your paper showed strengths and weaknesses
- Read over model papers posted on course website
- After 24 hours, please go to TA office hours or send an email to your TA to make an appointment to see her
- If, after meeting with TA, you wish to contest your grade, please see Professor Hilbink
- Note: Professor Hilbink will regrade your paper from scratch, meaning your paper grade could go up or down.

# Grade Distribution

## Median Grade = 12



# Grade Curve

- A = 18.5-20
- A- = 17-18
- B+ = 15.5-16.5
- B = 14-15
- B- = 12.5-13.5
- C+ = 11-12
- C = 9.5-10.5
- C- = 8-9
- D+ = 6.5-7.5
- D = 5-6
- F = 0-4.5