

B24 Mr. Grosse / German lecturer / English Studies

Interaction partner(s): Taiwanese student
Moment of enquiry: SS 09
Experience of difference: Performance expectations towards students

Mr. Grosse has many foreign students in his seminars, and time and again he notices that the performance requirements for written tests or homework vary greatly in different countries. Many students who have a bachelor's degree from their home country are used to passing multiple-choice tests and have never composed an essay of their own. Often this causes them major problems when it comes to performance requirements, especially for presentations and seminar papers at German universities. One time a Taiwanese student comes to see Mr. Grosse during his consulting hours, because he is not happy with the grade for his homework. He explains that he has studied the specified basic literature intensely and tried extremely hard to repeat the information as accurately as possible. Therefore he does not understand why he did not get a better grade for his work. Mr. Grosse tries to point out the most important criteria for writing a seminar paper and he tries to explain what students are expected to do.

1. What are the professor's expectations with regard to seminar papers?
2. What are the Taiwanese student's ideas of a good seminar paper?