

Grading Contract

WRT 205
Spring 2017
Brett Keegan

The following document outlines policies for your final grade. As noted by the syllabus, **the default grade for the class is a B+/-**, with A's being achieved for exceptional performance and grades below B coming from a failure to meet class requirements.

By signing this document you agree to whatever conditions I set as the instructor of record and that we set as a class together. We may alter this as a class in the initial stages of the course and amend it as the course goes on, depending on the course.

As noted in the syllabus, life happens and I am willing to be flexible. With that in mind, I can make allowances, but in order to create a fair classroom for all involved, such exceptions will need to be rare and directed by this contract, my discretion as the instructor, and University policies.

This contract should free you up for more creativity and sustained effort by emphasizing your continued and varied investment. This is to better capture the messy process of writing, the gradual growth of learning, and the ongoing effort that informs these acts.

For a B -/+ you must complete the following, considered the fundamentals of the course:

- All four major projects completed according to their requirements.
- Weekly blog posts (15 total) 200+ words each
- Participation in in-class and online discussions and blog engagement (12 total posts/comments online)
- Reasonable attendance (7 or fewer absences)
- Attend 2+ peer review days

Regarding **participation**, we mean the following:

- Contributing to class discussion through thoughtful, relevant comments
- In class and online, students and instructor should be good listeners, "listening to understand," not merely to respond. Students and instructor should also avoid monopolizing or interrupting conversations.
- Online responses should be at least 2 sentences, if not more, of constructive criticism, thinking, or related conversation.
- Check class-related e-mails from instructor and peers and ask questions of any course documents, policies, or goals.
- Listen to directions from both the instructor and course materials.

For an A, you must meet all of the requirements for a B and do the following:

- 5 or fewer absences
- Introduce readings and/or lead a class discussion with a brief presentation or planned activity
- Or, a contribution to the class' digital presence.

To get grades less than a B, you must fail to meet the minimum course requirements at varying degrees:

Grades	Projects	Blog	Participation	Attendance
C +/-	4	12	8	7
D +/-	3	7	4	7

When achieving these grades or an F, you may fail in any one of the above categories. For example, if you participate with 12+ comments online but complete 12 blog posts, you still receive a C. Likewise, if you complete all four projects but only 7 blog posts, you also receive a D. The same goes for the F: If you fail to meet the D requirements in any category without a reasonable excuse, you will receive an F for the course.

I, as the instructor, reserve the right to work through rare exceptions with my own discretion in order to maintain students' right to individual privacy. But this should be a rare, last resort practice.

As one final note, I will try to reference this contract and check in with you all individually and via conferences, so you do not forget it, but **it is ultimately your job as a student to know what you need to do to get the grade that you want.** With that in mind, you may want to consult this document early and often until you get a solid sense for your overall plan. You may also contact me with any questions.

If you have read the above and feel that the class alterations and amendments are reasonably fair—even if they may not be ideal or “easy”—please sign the line below, agreeing to the policies outlined in this contract.

Name

Date
