**Grading Contract Outline**

In my class, I use what is called contract grading, which means if you meet the minimum terms of the specific grade, you receive that grade - guaranteed. What this grading system allows us to focus on is learning goals instead of performance goals because the true purpose of this class is to make you a better reader, writer, and critical thinker. In fact, the traditional A-F grades will only be issued at the time of final grades. Instead of those traditional letter grades and points, your learning will be graded as complete/incomplete or the following feedback categories: “above expectations,” “meeting expectations,” “developing the skill,” and “not yet passing.” Below are the specific requirements for each grade:

**Passing Grades**

A

* 90% of all assignments from all categories are submitted complete
* All essays are “above expectations” or “meeting expectations”
* No more than 8 missed assignments
* No more than 8 late assignments

B

* 80% of all assignments from all categories are submitted compete
* All essays are at least “meeting expectations”
* No more than 12 missed assignments
* No more than 12 late assignments

C

* 70% of all assignments from all categories are submitted complete
* All essays are at least “developing the skill”
* No more than 16 missed assignments
* No more than 16 late assignments

**Non-Passing Grades**

D

* Less than 70% of all assignments from all categories are submitted
* Any essays are at “not yet passing”
* More than 16 missed assignments
* More than 16 late assignments

F

* Less than 60% of all assignments from all categories are submitted
* Any essays are at “not yet passing”
* More than 16 missed assignments
* More than 16 late assignments

FW

* Failure to withdraw and you stop attending classes and participating

**FAQs About My Contract Grading**

What does it mean to have an assignment submitted complete?

* Assignments are **“complete”** if they show thought and effort to meet the assignment’s standards, such as minimum requirements (length, number and type of sources, i.e., what the assignment asks you to do ). A complete assignment also includes showing what you learned, meaning your work demonstrates your learning and skill development (e.g., proper source citation, development of ideas through critical thinking, etc.).

What happens if I get an essay score lower than what I’m reaching for or it’s not yet passing?

* You are allowed to revise all essays, except the final, for a higher category if it’s still passing or meeting expectations. If you receive a not yet passing score, you will have to revise in order to pass the class, as all essays have to score at least developing the skill.

When you say revise, does that mean I have to rewrite the whole assignment?

* Not always. I will indicate in your feedback what I want you to revise. In some cases, it may be necessary for you to revise most of or all of an assignment. In other cases, I may instruct you to complete a partial or focused revision, which means you‘ll only be revising specific parts of the assignment.

Will absences negatively impact my grades?

* I don’t factor attendance into grades directly; however, if you exceed the number of allowable absences without discussing your absences with me, I will drop you. Also, missing class means you’re missing in-class assignments, group work, lectures, conferences, help from the tutor, etc., all of which contributes to you being able to produce passing-quality work. In other words, yes, so attend class!

Is there a limit to how many late assignments I can have?

* Yes, as listed above, you can only have a certain number of late assignments before your grade drops to the next (lower) category. I also accept all late work until 2 weeks before the end of the semester, and there are no penalties or deductions for late work.

\*Please note that I reserve the right to refuse to take your late work if you’re making late work a habit, which means the work will be counted as “missing” and your grade may drop.

**A Note on Grades on Canvas:**

I use Canvas as our course management system; however, Canvas limitations require me to enter numerical values for certain assignment types. What this means is that **Canvas will display a grade percentage and letter grade for you, but IT IS NOT ACCURATE.** To determine your grade, you will need to count missing/late assignments and monitor your essay scores (remember, you need to receive a passing score on all essays to pass this course).