

What is a grading contract?

Normally, you earn points on each assignment calculating to create your final grade. While you might also receive comments accompanying those points, that feedback doesn't always help you understand the grade, nor do it promise to improve the text which is already graded. In fact, we are sometimes prone to worry more about the points than the ideas or the rhetorical effectiveness of the text. We come to believe these points define us and our ability within the course over the labor we put into polishing our texts.

Unlike a point system, a grading contract looks at your overall labor and progress throughout a semester evaluating your attendance, engagement, and commitment to creating and revising effective texts. I hope this contract makes grading more transparent. I hope it gives me a more honest way to evaluate your work. I hope it allows you to focus on what matters: your engagement with the class, the development of your ideas, and your contribution to a community of learners. Beyond those hopes, I also feel this grading contract is a truer reflection of what assessment looks like in a professional environment. After all, a boss will not be assigning you points each week; rather, your professional status will depend on how you engage with and act in the workplace over time.

Below you will find a checklist explaining what you must do to earn each letter grade. You are free to choose whatever grade you hope to earn. However, this goal is preliminary, and only your subsequent performance in the course will allow you to earn the grade you choose. It also helps me to know what your goal for this class is. I know this grading process may be unfamiliar to you, and I'm happy to answer any questions that you have or help you understand this process.

AMENDING A CONTRACT: If extenuating circumstances arise wherein you cannot meet one of the terms of the contract but feel you still have shown the labor, level of engagement, and produced the quality of the work necessary to earn your goal grade, please meet with me immediately to file for an individual amendment. This cannot be done the last week of class nor after grades have been entered. This should be done once you realize you have breached your contract.

To be considered passing for this class, you must meet the core requirements:

"C"ore Requirements:

- Misses no more than 6 classes (2 weeks of classes)
- Accrues fewer than 5 tardies
- Complete ten tweets per week most of the time engaging in the class discussion of the material and its concepts
- Complete daily activities such as freewrites, peer reviews, in-class activities
- Engage in meaningful class discussion by actively reading and coming to class prepared to discuss
- Work with your peers to help them develop as thinkers and composers, contributing to our classroom community
- Complete assignments on time (unless an extension is granted in advance of due date)
- Complete assignments according to the requirements expressed on the assignment sheet including all parts of the assignment (drafts, designer's statements, etc.) earning "P"s on all major assignments.
- Revise any assignments that receive "P-"s understanding that you must visit the RWC or digital studio when revising for a new grade to gather the input of experts outside of the context of the class and meet with me to receive your new feedback.

To earn a "B," in addition to the core requirements, you must...

- Revise one "P" major assignments to further polish the effectiveness of these texts understanding that you must visit the RWC or digital studio when revising for a new grade to gather the input of experts outside of the context of the class and meet with me to receive your new feedback.
- Meet with me two times throughout the semester to talk about progress, get feedback, answer questions. Any revision meetings count towards these three.

To earn an "A," you must...

- Revise two "P" major assignments to further polish the effectiveness of these texts understanding that you must visit the RWC or digital studio when revising for a new grade to gather the input of experts outside of the context of the class and meet with me to receive your new feedback.
- Meet with me three times throughout the semester to talk about progress, get feedback, answer questions. Any revision meetings count towards these three.

Grading Contract (STUDENT COPY) Spring 2018 WEPO

I _____ have read the contract and have selected my goal grade of a(n) _____. I understand that if I have questions as to where I stand, I can ask you at any point throughout the semester. I equally understand that setting a goal grade does not guarantee that this is the grade I will receive at the end of the semester.

(Notes for Mrs. C below)

Signed,

Date _____

-----CUT HERE-----

Grading Contract (INSTRUCTOR COPY) Spring 2018 WEPO

I _____ have read the contract and have selected my goal grade of a(n) _____. I understand that if I have questions as to where I stand, I can ask you at any point throughout the semester. I equally understand that setting a goal grade does not guarantee that this is the grade I will receive at the end of the semester.

(Notes for Mrs. C below)

Signed,

Date _____