

## EVALUATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

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As we all know, participation in a course is not always correlated with mastery of the course material. As a result, your final grade will also be determined by the extent to which you have displayed mastery of the four learning outcomes of this course. Though most of the work you will do in this course is designed to *promote* mastery, three separate take-home exams will be occasions for you to display (and me to evaluate) your mastery.

The first exam, due on **February 25<sup>th</sup>**, will contain 6 questions, divided evenly between questions that assess your reading skills and comparison skills. The questions asked will cover the reading assignments from January 20-February 17<sup>th</sup>.

The second exam, due on **April 1<sup>st</sup>**, will contain 9 questions, divided evenly between questions that assess your reading, comparison, and evaluation skills. The questions asked will cover the reading assignments from February 24<sup>th</sup>-March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The final exam, due on **May 6<sup>th</sup>**, will contain 12 questions, divided evenly between questions that assess all four learning outcomes (reading, comparison, evaluation, and synthesis). The questions asked will cover the reading assignments from March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

None of these exams will be graded in the traditional sense of that term. Instead, I will evaluate your work by judging each question to display either “emerging practice,” “developing practice,” or “mastered practice.” Given the grading system I will employ (more details below), you may not need to complete each question on each exam. Whether or not you complete all 27 questions will depend upon the grade you want to receive, as well as the confidence you have in your ability to display mastery of a particular skill in a single attempt.

## GRADING

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Unlike traditional grading systems, your final letter grade will not be an average of the grades you have received on all the assignments given throughout the semester. In fact, **I will only give you three letter grades this term, and all will be given at the end of the semester.**

The first, and most straightforward, grade you will receive is a **participation grade**, which will be determined by the extent to which you participate in class, according to the standards below.

### Standards for Participation Grades:

<b>A+</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 1 unexcused absences</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 90% of the time <b>OR</b> participated in class discussions at least 70% of the time and thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Notes were always submitted and more than adequate on both occasions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Completed all in-class activities when present</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Completed all out-of-class, ungraded assignments</li></ul>
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 2 unexcused absences</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 80% of the time <b>OR</b> participated in class discussions at least 60% of the time and thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Notes were always submitted and more than adequate on one occasion</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Completed all in-class activities when present</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Completed all out-of-class, ungraded assignments</li></ul>
<b>A-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 3 unexcused absences</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 80% of the time <b>OR</b> participated in class discussions at least 60% of the time and thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Notes were always submitted and at least adequate on both occasions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Completed all in-class activities when present</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Completed all out-of-class, ungraded assignments</li></ul>

<b>B+</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 4 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 60% of the time <b>OR</b> participated in class discussions at least 40% of the time and thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis <input type="checkbox"/> Notes were always submitted and at least adequate on both occasions <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all in-class activities when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one out-of-class, ungraded assignments
<b>B</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 5 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 60% of the time <b>OR</b> participated in class discussions at least 40% of the time and thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis <input type="checkbox"/> Notes were always submitted and at least adequate on one occasion <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one in-class activity when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one out-of-class, ungraded assignments
<b>B-</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 6 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 40% of the time <b>OR</b> participated in class discussions at least 20% of the time and thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis <input type="checkbox"/> Notes were always submitted and at least adequate on one occasion <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one in-class activity when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one out-of-class, ungraded assignments
<b>C+</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 7 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 40% of the time <b>OR</b> participated in class discussions at least 20% of the time and thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis <input type="checkbox"/> Notes were always submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one in-class activity when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one out-of-class, ungraded assignments
<b>C</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 8 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 20% of the time <b>OR</b> thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis. <input type="checkbox"/> Notes were always submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one in-class activities when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but one out-of-class, ungraded assignments
<b>C-</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 9 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 20% of the time <b>OR</b> thoughtfully participated on Facebook on a weekly basis <input type="checkbox"/> Notes were submitted on at least one occasion <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but two in-class activities when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but two out-of-class, ungraded assignments
<b>D+</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 10 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in class discussions at least 10% of the time <b>OR</b> thoughtfully participated on Facebook every other week <input type="checkbox"/> Notes were submitted on at least one occasion <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but two in-class activities when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but two out-of-class, ungraded assignments
<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 11 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but two in-class activities when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but two out-of-class, ungraded assignments
<b>D-</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 12 unexcused absences <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but two in-class activities when present <input type="checkbox"/> Completed all but two out-of-class, ungraded assignments

The second, more unusual, grade you will receive is what I am calling a **mastery grade**. At a general level, this grade is designed to communicate the extent to which you have displayed mastery of the skills this course was designed to teach. More specifically, however, it will reflect the extent to which you have displayed mastery of exam questions designed to assess those skills.

You can complete as many (or as few) exam questions as you would like, and your answer to each will be judged to be “emerging,” “developing,” or “mastered.” The number and level of questions you have mastered will then determine your mastery grade, according to the standards below.

Note that you will have more opportunities to display mastery of a specific skill than is required, but that you must display mastery on at least 50% of the questions you’ve attempted to display true mastery of that skill.

### Standards for Mastery Grades:

<b>A+</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 synthesis questions <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 evaluation questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 comparison questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>A</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of 2 synthesis questions <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 evaluation questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 comparison questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>A-</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of 1 synthesis question, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 evaluation questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 comparison questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>B+</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 evaluation questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 comparison questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>B</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of 2 evaluation questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 comparison questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>B-</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of 1 evaluation question, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 comparison questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>C+</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 comparison questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>C</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of 2 comparison questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>C-</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of 1 comparison question, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher. <input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>D+</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of at least 3 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of 2 reading questions, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.
<b>D-</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Display mastery of 1 reading question, with a mastery-to-attempt ratio of 50% or higher.

The final grade I will assign at the end of the semester is your **final course grade**, to be submitted to the registrar. This grade will be determined by combining your participation grade with your mastery grade, according to the chart below.

**Standards for Final Grades:**

		Mastery Grade												
		A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Participation Grade	A+	A+	A	A	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	D
	A	A+	A	A-	A-	B+	B	B-	B-	C+	C	C-	C-	D
	A-	A	A	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	D+	D
	B+	A	A	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	D+	D
	B	A	A-	A-	B+	B	B-	B-	C+	C	C-	C-	D+	D-
	B-	A	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	D+	D	D-
	C+	A	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	D+	D	D-
	C	A-	A-	B+	B	B-	B-	C+	C	C-	C-	D+	D	D-
	C-	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	D+	D	D	F
	D+	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	D+	D	D	F
	D	A-	B+	B	B-	B-	C+	C	C-	C-	D+	D	D-	F
	D-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	D+	D	D	D-	F
F	B+	B	B-	B-	C+	C	C-	C-	D+	D	D-	D-	F	

If you show substantial improvement throughout the course of the semester, I may raise your final grade by up to half a letter grade (B to B+, B+ to A-, etc.) and if you fail to comply with any of the course policies below, I reserve the right to lower your final grade by up to half a letter grade.