Mr. Woody’s Academic Expectations and Grading System

Our primary goal in this class is to set high academic goals and standards, then give a sincere effort to help every student reach their full potential. It is my desire to help my students become Informed Citizens, Effective Learners, Rational Thinkers, and Compassionate Philosophers. It is up to YOU to do your best to work toward these goals, by giving your best effort in every activity. I will try to make all classroom activities both interesting and relevant to these goals.

You should imagine that you are beginning the Quarter with a perfect A grade, with points being deducted based on missed questions on quizzes or tests, by failing to turn in required work, or poor class participation. Your responsibility is pay close attention to assignments that are due, and get them completed on time to fulfill your obligations in all three *Cognitive Performance Areas* (CPAs) in order to maintain your grade.

The Cognitive Performance Areas for this course are:

**CONTENT** – This area measures your knowledge and understanding of the facts and ideas presented in the unit. The *Objective Test* will measure how well you understand the basic factual information in the unit, using measurable questions. The *Subjective Test* in each unit will be an essay or short-answer test to see if you can apply your *Higher-Order Thinking Skills* to the material we have covered. There will usually be two of each kind of test in each Quarter, with quizzes appearing as needed, and *Bonus Points* randomly awarded. This area will amount to 40% of your overall quarterly grade.

**PROCESS** – This is the way in which we interpret concepts for them to make sense within our own unique perspective and frame of reference. Each Quarter, you will complete 3 or 4 *Journals*, and maintain a high-quality *Notebook*. There will be 3 or 4 short-term *Deadlines* each Quarter, with one *Journal* being due on each date. You are always permitted to turn in *Journals* early, and you may do extras for *Bonus Points.* (Psych students will do 4 *Journals* and World History students will do 3 each Quarter.)

*Journals* will be worth 25 points each, constituting 15% of your grade, and may come in a variety of forms. They may be: a discussion of our current class topic; original thoughts you have on what we are learning; the application of principles you have learned in class; or connections you make between our material and that of other classes or situations. You may even write personal dialogue to discuss, argue about, or get advice on matters of concern only to you. ALL *Journals* are considered private, and I will never discuss the contents of them with any other human being than you, unless the subject you raise requires me to do so by law. (Those subjects are: suicide, abuse, and addiction.) In order to deserve class credit, *Journals* should always be representative of your insight, understanding, and good-faith effort.

You will also receive credit for your *Daily Class Participation*, which is another 20% of your grade. Good participation may include taking excellent notes, being active in class discussions, leading an activity, or even simply paying close attention to the lesson. Random chattering, sleeping, being generally obnoxious, utilizing your cell phone improperly, and other unacceptable behaviors will detract from your DP grade. Participation is generally counted each day on a 5-point scale (5 = excellent, 3 = passable, 0 = unacceptable or absent). If you are absent, you can recoup your points by writing a journal based on one of the topics on the link entitled “Daily Participation Recovery” that is posted on my website.

The maintenance of a neat, orderly and complete *Notebook* will be worth 50 points, and amount to 5% of your Quarterly grade.

**PRODUCT** – This is the tangible result of the interaction between your knowledge of the topic and your process in making it your own. If we wish to be known as capable people, we must be able to take simple information, view it with our own special vision, and turn it into a useable product. We call our work I-Search, because it will be written or presented in first-person, describing the work that you personally have done. There are innumerable types of projects one can do, but some of the possibilities are listed in your *Toolbox*. Note that these projects should demonstrate your creative abilities, but that they do not have to be overly elaborate. World History students will progress each 9-weeks toward a final project, where Psychology students will have small projects as part of each Unit. This aspect will be worth 20% of your overall grade.

## OFFICIAL GRADING PROCESS

By watching your grade closely on LiveGrades, you should be able to easily see how well you are doing in the class. Just remember: because the grades are *weighted*, points can appear and disappear in a hurry, especially near the end of the Quarter. Guard against this by being certain to do all work that is requested of you, and do it ON TIME.

# SCALE

Our computerized system will show only your final percentage grade but this chart shows you how each percentage reflects a letter grade

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| --- | --- |
| **PERCENTAGE** | **LETTER** |
| 100 – 98 | A+ |
| 97.9 – 95 | A |
| 94.9 – 93 | A- |
| 92.9 – 91 | B+ |
| 90.9 – 87 | B |
| 86.9 – 85 | B- |
| 84.9 – 82 | C+ |
| 81.9 – 78 | C |
| 77.9 – 75 | C- |
| 74.9 – 72 | D+ |
| 71.9 – 68 | D |
| 67.9 – 65 | D- |
| 64.9 – 40 | F |

You will notice that my grading scale does have a *basement* of 40%. I instituted this long ago in order to insure that one item could not destroy your overall average. Anybody can have one bad day, but you must understand that this assumes that you have given an honest effort. Obviously, if you simply “blow off” an assignment or Cheat (heaven forbid), then you may receive a much lower grade.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ALERT \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* BE ADVISED \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* ALERT \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Because of the availability of Test Scaling and Bonus Points for personal effort, there will never, ever, ever, (really not EVER) be any Rounding.