**PrepUS History**

**Classroom Grading System**

*2013 - 2014*

***“How much is this worth?”***

How much each type of work counts toward your final grade depends on the level of academic difficulty and effort required. The score you earn is weighted according to category and the end result is the grade you earn for the quarter. Homework is worth 30%, quizzes are worth 30%, tests and/or projects are worth 30%, and class participation is worth 10%. The categories for homework, quizzes, and tests all count the same, but because there are more homework assignments, each individual test or quiz counts more than an individual homework assignment. For example, if Sally earned an A average on her homework assignments, a B average on her quizzes, a C average on her tests, and a B for class participation, her quarter grade would be as follows:

Type of Assignment Grade Points

# Work Score Weight Earned

Homework 95 30% 28.5

Quizzes 84 30% 25.2

Tests/Projects 74 30% 22.2

Class Participation 84 10% 8.4

Total 84.3

Quarter Grade 84 B

***“Do I have to talk in class?”***

Class participation is *extremely important*, not only because it’s 10% of your overall grade, but also because it helps you to interact with your peers and better understand the course material. Hopefully it will be fun!

The grade you earn for class participation each quarter will be based on the following:

*A Exceeds the standards*

This student always takes a voluntary, thoughtful, and active role in their own learning, challenging themselves on a daily basis. Through participation and inquiry, they consistently demonstrate a genuine desire to learn and share ideas drawn from their own experiences in other classes and elsewhere, in addition to this class with the teacher and their classmates. They initiate discussions, ask significant questions, and act as leaders within the group. They are willing to take risks, to assert an opinion and support it, and to listen actively to others. This student is always well prepared to contribute to the class as a result of having thoughtfully completed assignments, and the thoroughness of their work demonstrates the high regard they hold for learning.

*B Meets the standards*

This student consistently takes an active role in their own learning. They participate regularly in class discussions and frequently volunteer their ideas, ask thoughtful questions, and defend opinions. They listen respectfully to their classmates and are willing to share ideas as a result of having completed assignments. Though never causing disruption to the class, this student does not always demonstrate a consistent commitment to make the most out of our class time each and every day.

*C Partially meets the standards*

This student sometimes takes an active role in their own learning, sharing relevant ideas and asking appropriate questions. Although reluctant to take risks, they contribute sometimes to class discussions. This student listens to their classmates and respects their opinions. Most of the time, as a result of having completed assignments, this student is prepared to answer questions when called upon. They may need occasional reminders to stay on task, make the most of our class time, and to increase their level of commitment to the course.

*D Does not meet the standards*

This student rarely takes an active role in their own learning. They often do not participate and rarely share ideas or ask questions. This student displays poor listening skills, and they may be intolerant of the opinions of others. As a result of being unprepared for or disengaged from class, this student often refuses to offer ideas even when called upon. This student is rarely an asset to the overall progress of the class.

*F 0 Points Does not qualify*

This student is frequently absent from class and therefore cannot meet the class participation minimum standards.

*“How much homework will I have?”*

Expect to have homework every class. It is sometimes reviewed, sometimes used to take the in-class quiz, and sometimes collected; sometimes it is not. **Just do it!**

***“Can I turn homework in late?”***

Homework is due the class after it is assigned, unless otherwise noted. No late homework is accepted. If you are absent, **the day you come back to school** you must hand in the homework that was due, pick up any assigned work, and make arrangements to make up any missed assessments. I am in my room before and after school and during snack break and first lunch each day. It is a good idea to have a “homework buddy” who can take notes and additional handouts for you if you are absent. That way if you don’t get the chance to connect with me you can get your information from them.

***“What about quizzes?”***

We will have **many** map and content quizzes. If you earn a failing grade on a quiz you may retake it within one week. If your retake score is a 60 or above, you will earn a passing grade of a 60. If the score on your retake is higher than your first score but not passing, you will earn the higher of the two scores. For example, if you fail a quiz with a 40 and your retake score is a 55, you will earn a 55. If your retake score is a 99, you will earn a 60. It is your responsibility to schedule a makeup time with me.

***“What about tests?”***

At the end of each unit you will have the choice of taking a comprehensive exam **OR** completing a project and a short multiple choice exam. You will be given the study guide and project options several days in advance in order for you to make an informed decision on which type of assessment to complete. Projects must be complete and ready to hand in on the day of the exam or you must take the comprehensive exam. If you earn a failing grade on an assessment you may retake the exam or fix your project within a week after it is handed back. Like the retakes on the quizzes, if the score on your retake is higher than your first score but not passing, you will earn the higher of the two scores. If your retake score is a 99, you will earn a 60. See me to schedule the makeup time.

***“Do I have to keep my work?”***

At random intervals throughout the quarter I will ask you to organize your handouts, worksheets, projects, etc, and take an in-class quiz covering this work. At the end of the quarter I will ask you to pick out the work you’re most proud of and the work you’d like to redo, and show your entire portfolio of work to your parents/guardians for feedback.

***“Can I do extra credit?”***

You will have the option of completing two extra credit options per quarter. You must earn an A on the report in order for it to count, and each report will raise your quarter grade two points. You may only complete extra credit if you have completed all other coursework. This means if you have any incomplete homework assignments you must complete them before any extra credit assignments will be added to your quarter grade. The descriptions of the extra credit options are as follows:

***Option #1: Current Events***

1. Read a current newspaper or magazine article of your choice that has been approved by me that relates to the subject matter we are studying this quarter.

2. Identify the following about the article:

> What is the title and who are the main people or events this article discusses?

> What is the general story line of the article?

> What biases are present in the article?

> Why is this information important to know?

> What is your overall opinion of the subject matter of the article?

3. Have someone proofread a rough draft of your assignment and make corrections. They should sign the bottom of the rough draft so that I know who did the proofreading.

4. Your computer-processed report must be written in paragraph form (do not just answer the questions stated above) with correct spelling and grammar.

***Option #2: Couch Potato Workout***

Use the following questions to give a detailed description of your reaction to a film.

1. Watch a film of your choice approved by me\* that relates to the subject matter we are studying this quarter.

2. Identify the following about the film:

> What is the title and who are the main characters and the actors who portray them?

> What is the general story line of the film?

> What historical accuracies and inaccuracies are depicted in this film?

> Why is this information important to know?

> What is your overall opinion of the film?

3. Have someone proofread a rough draft of your assignment and make corrections. They should sign the bottom of the rough draft so that I know who did the proofreading.

4. Your computer-processed report must be written in paragraph form (do not just answer the questions stated above) with correct spelling and grammar.