Basic US History

Classroom Grading System

*2014 Spring Semester*

*Note: This information should look familiar as you received it on the first day last fall; it explains how you earn your grades, how you should participate in class, when to turn in your assignments, how to improve a quiz or test score, how to keep yourself organized, and what types of extra credit you can do.*

***“How much is this assignment worth?”***

How much each type of work counts depends on the level of academic difficulty and effort required. The score you earn is weighted according to category and the end result is your quarter grade. Homework is worth 30%, quizzes are worth 30%, tests and/or projects are worth 30%, and class participation is worth 10%. So although the categories for homework, quizzes, and tests each count 30%, because there are more homework assignments, each test or quiz counts more than a homework assignment. For example, if Sally earned an A average on her homework, 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 Category Grade Points

Work Average Weight Earned

Classwork/Homework 95 30% 28.5

Quizzes/Essays 84 30% 25.2

Tests/Projects 74 30% 22.2

Class Participation 84 10% 8.4

Total 84.3

Quarter Grade 84 B

**Now fill in these charts with YOUR information from your progress reports.**

**1ST QUARTER**

Type of Category Grade Points

Work Average Weight Earned

Classwork/Homework \_\_\_\_\_\_ 30% \_\_\_\_\_\_

Quizzes/Essays \_\_\_\_\_\_ 30% \_\_\_\_\_\_

Tests/Projects \_\_\_\_\_\_ 30% \_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Participation \_\_\_\_\_\_ 10% \_\_\_\_\_\_

Total (Quarter Grade) \_\_\_\_\_\_

**2ND QUARTER**

Type of Category Grade Points

Work Average Weight Earned

Classwork/Homework \_\_\_\_\_\_ 30% \_\_\_\_\_\_

Quizzes/Essays \_\_\_\_\_\_ 30% \_\_\_\_\_\_

Tests/Projects \_\_\_\_\_\_ 30% \_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Participation \_\_\_\_\_\_ 10% \_\_\_\_\_\_

Total (Quarter Grade) \_\_\_\_\_\_

1st Qtr Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_ + 2nd Qtr Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_

+

Midterm Exam Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_

=

\_\_\_\_\_\_

÷ 5 =

Semester 1 Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***“Do I have to participate 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 – and it’s fun!

The grade you earn for class participation each quarter is 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 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, assert an opinion and support it, and 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 may be intolerant of the opinions of others. As a result of being unprepared for or disengaged from class, this student may refuse to offer ideas even when called upon. This student is rarely an asset to the overall progress of the class.

*F Does not qualify*

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

**Which level of class participation do you usually attain in class? Grade yourself, noting what things you do well and what things you may need to work on.**

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***“How much homework will I have and can I turn it in late?”***

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. 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 (quizzes or tests). I am in my room before and after school and during snack break and first lunch each day, but you can always contact me via email, text, or on Facebook. 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.

**Review the homework on your progress reports. Then circle the best answer to each question.**

How often do you hand your homework in? Always Usually Sometimes Never

How often do you hand homework in on time? Always Usually Sometimes Never

When you are absent, how often do you Always Usually Sometimes Never

hand in and collect assignments you missed?

If you should be absent in the next semester, when could you check on what you missed (when are your study halls – or if you don’t have any, when could you come in early or stay after school to do this)?

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***“What about quizzes?”***

We will have 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 will have to take the comprehensive exam. Like the retake policy on the quizzes, 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 in order to earn a passing grade. See me to schedule the makeup time.

**Review the quizzes and tests on your progress reports. Then answer each question.**

How many quizzes and/or tests did you fail (the total for both quarters)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you should fail a quiz or test in the next semester, when could you retake them (when are your study halls – or if you don’t have any, when could you come in early or stay after school to retake them)?

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***“Do I have to keep my work?”***

You need to organize your handouts, worksheets, projects, etc. At the end of the quarter you will choose the work you’re most proud of and something you’d like to redo, and then show your entire portfolio of work to your parents/guardians for feedback.

What scores did you earn on your portfolios (for each quarter)? 1st Qtr \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Qtr \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why did you earn this score (turned in on time/late, complete/incomplete, etc.)?

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***“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.

How many extra credit assignments did you complete (the total for both quarters)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you were to complete any extra credit in the next semester, which assignment would you choose? Why?

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**Goals for the Next Semester**

What grade would you like to earn for the next semester? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What steps will you need to take to reach this goal (be specific, such as completing all homework on time, studying for quizzes and tests, retaking failed assessments, etc.)?

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

Your signature verifies you have been informed of the process by which your child earns his or her grade and the semester goals they have set.