PrepUS History

Classroom Grading System

*2015 - 2016*

***“Should I participate in class?”***

YES! Positive class participation is *extremely important* - it helps you to interact with your peers and better understand the course material – and it makes the class more fun for everyone! You should participate positively in class and take a voluntary, thoughtful, and active role in your own learning, challenging yourself on a daily basis. Be sure to consistently demonstrate a genuine desire to learn and share ideas drawn from your own experiences in this class, other classes, and elsewhere. Initiate discussions, ask significant questions, and act as a leader within our class. And be willing to take risks, assert your opinion and defend it, and listen actively to others. Your contributions to our class will be enhanced by thoughtfully completing all assigned work.

***“What is the homework policy?”***

Homework is assigned daily and serves various purposes. Some homework assignments will allow you to practice what you learned in that day’s class to more fully understand and remember the material. Other homework will allow you to learn more detailed information about the content we covered in class that day. And some other homework assignments may prepare you to learn about new information during the following class. But aside from adding to your content knowledge, completing homework allows you to practice the skills of organization, time management, task completion, and responsibility follow-through that will be required at any job you will have in the future!

To assist you in completing your homework and learning all the associated information and skills, you will periodically have an “assisted study hall.” During this class period you will have the opportunity to complete any incomplete work from our current unit of study. You may also redo any completed homework assignment as many times as you’d like in order to relearn that assignment’s information and skills and earn a higher grade on the redone work. Any work from the current unit that is not turned in by the day of the unit exam will remain a zero in the gradebook.

The homework for each day will be written on the homework board in the classroom and posted on my website **[http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/pwagner/].** 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. You will be expected to take quizzes and exams when they are given unless otherwise arranged with me.

It is a good idea to make arrangements with another student to take notes and pick up additional handouts for you if you are absent. That way you will always be prepared for class and not get too far behind in your work.

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***“What about quizzes?”***

We will have map and content quizzes throughout the year. You may retake any failed quiz in order to earn a passing grade. If the score on your retake is higher than your first score but not above a 60, you will earn the higher of the two scores. If your retake score is a 60 or above, you will earn a passing grade of a 60. 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. See me to schedule a time to retake any failed quiz.

***“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. 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 retake time.

***“How much is this worth?”***

The score you earn for each type of work is weighted according to category and the end result is the grade you earn for the quarter. Homework is worth 20%, quizzes and essays are worth 30%, and tests and/or projects are worth 50%. 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, and a C average on her tests, her quarter grade would be as follows:

**Type of Work Category Average Category Weight Points Earned**

Homework 95 20% 19

Essays/Quizzes 84 30% 25.2

Tests/Projects 74 50% 37

 Total 81.2

 Quarter Grade 81 (B-)

***“Do I have to keep my work?”***

**YOU MUST KEEP ALL OF YOUR WORK FOR OUR CLASS**. At the end of each quarter you will be required to organize all the work you completed that quarter, pick out something you’re proud of and something that needed additional work, and then show your entire portfolio of work to your parents/guardians for feedback. This allows both you and your parents to see all the work you’ve done for the quarter as well as to have all your class materials organized for studying and reference.

***“What is the cell phone policy?”***

The official BHS cell phone policy for students allows the use of cell phones ONLY in the hallways between classes, during lunch periods in the cafeteria and designated lunch areas, and at the end of the school day. Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during classes and study halls unless your teacher has authorized their use for educational purposes. Any use in violation of these rules will result in confiscation of the phone and/or loss of cell phone privilege. Depending on the severity of the offense, further consequences may be imposed.

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 Student’s Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

*Signatures verify that you and your child reviewed this information together.*