

Modern European History

Classroom Grading System

2014 - 2015

“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 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-

“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! A student who participates positively in class takes a voluntary, thoughtful, and active role in their own learning, challenging themselves on a daily basis. They consistently demonstrate a genuine desire to learn and share ideas drawn from their own experiences in this class, other classes, and elsewhere. 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.

“What is the homework policy?”

Homework is due the class after it is assigned, unless otherwise noted. It is a good idea to have a “homework buddy” who can take notes and additional handouts for you if you are absent. The homework for each day will be written on the homework board in the classroom and posted on my website. 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 have the opportunity to work during our class time on incomplete work on the Tuesday or Wednesday of every other week (whichever day we happen to have class that week). During this “assisted study hall” you will have the opportunity to ask me for help in completing assignments or assessments you may have missed in the previous two weeks.

“What about quizzes?”

We will have map and content quizzes throughout the year. If you earn a failing grade on a quiz you may retake it within the two week makeup period. 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 the two week makeup period. 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?”

You must keep all your work. At the end of the quarter I will ask you to organize your handouts, worksheets, essays, projects, assessments, etc., 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. 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.