

WRT 205: Participation / Portfolio Grading Contract

Participation/Portfolio (30% of overall grade)

The participation/portfolio grade in this class accounts for one third of the final average. It is a large portion of your grade for a reason: it accounts for your physical attendance, preparation, punctuality, and verbal contributions during each class period. But it also includes the blog assignments, and any other informal digital or paper contributions you make to the course. In other words, it's the place where you can concretely show that you are always doing your homework, always engaged in course topics, and always thinking critically. Whether through classroom engagement, the blog, or physical notes, this grade measures your daily participation, your commitment to the course, and your growth as a writer.



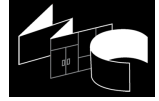
In an aim to help me with assessing your participation/portfolio this semester, you will use the guidelines below to choose a goal for your final average in this category. You will be allowed to adjust your goal at least once during the semester, if needed, once you get acclimated to the coursework. You will also get a chance to conference with me about your participation /portfolio at least once during the semester. Everything produced in the course that is not a formal paper falls into this category, such as:

- *Formal or informal group presentations.*
- *Digital interaction.* You will be assigned to share information digitally with peers, follow the course blog, maintain your own blog, and contribute to our class' digital platforms.
- *Writing conferences.* These may be individual or may involve helping your peers invent, revise, and edit their texts.
- *Class discussions.* Most of these will be in the classroom, but some may happen online.
- *Invention work.* This includes informal work that leads up to each essay (topic proposals, questions, outlines, reflections, etc.).



Each of you will have a personal blog (which everyone in our class can see) where you will post your work. If you prefer to type all of your work and paste it onto your blog, that is fine; however, if you like to hand-write, you can always scan or photograph your work and post it to the blog space. Your blog is a place for you to explore the ideas and prompts presented in the course, as well as a place to store information, notes, and research materials relevant to the course. Please use it as much as possible, and feel free to be as creative with your posts as you want to be; add links, media, files, art, etc.

If you are a regular Writing Center user, you can submit your client report forms on your blog or hand them in to me at any time. I will grant extra credit to committed Writing Center users who demonstrate growth throughout the semester as a result of their consultations. At the very least, using the Writing Center for each of your major papers will count for credit.



I will check your portfolio work often throughout the semester. If your portfolio is not up-to-date when I happen to check it, I reserve the right to factor that into your final portfolio average, especially if you demonstrate a pattern of lateness or low-quality work.



I will comment often on your blog, letting you know whether you are progressing toward your goal, whether you need improvement to meet your goal, or whether it's time to re-assess your goal and meet with me.

Remember, this is basically a contract with yourself; the grade expectations are outlined, and you are setting a goal to meet the expectations that you feel you are capable of meeting. If you don't meet them, it does not mean you fail; it may mean that you set your goal too high, and you will simply earn a lesser grade than you planned for.

As it's my job to maintain fair requirements for this course, I will have the ultimate say in your grade. Should you unreasonably expect a grade for work that you did not produce, or work that is below the quality stated above, I will not inflate your grade.

Set Your Goal

Think about the grade you would like to earn on your portfolio. Once you've made your choice, please fill out your grade contract form and hand in a physical copy. **Please complete this by Wed 1/22.**

WRT 205: Participation / Portfolio Grading Contract

Name _____

Section # _____

Spring 2014

Instructor E. Luther

A range (A, A-) Student is without-a-doubt serious and engaged in the class and striving to do his or her best work. Contributes critical, creative, high-quality ideas often to class discussions, blog, group work, classroom social media, etc. Asks questions, communicates, seeks help when needed. Always prepared & punctual. Completes assignments, on time, at least 90% of the time. Maintains perfect management skills (formatting assignments, following directions, organization), demonstrates impeccable professionalism & decorum at all times. Portfolio is complete and thorough, and shows commitment and growth throughout the semester. Note: to get a grade in this category, you cannot miss more than 4 classes.

B range (B+, B, B-) Student is engaged and interested in the class and strives to do his or her best work. May have some room to grow in professionalism, organization, communication, time management, or other skills. Contributes sincere, quality ideas to class discussions, blog, group work, etc. Asks questions, communicates, seeks help when needed. Completes assignments and is prepared & punctual at least 80% of the time. Maintains good management skills (formatting assignments, following directions, organization), demonstrates good professionalism & decorum. Portfolio is at least 80% complete and shows growth throughout the semester.

C range (C+, C, C-) Student puts forth effort, but is still learning how to maintain a professional, organized, punctual presence in class. Contributes occasionally to class discussions, group work, etc. Ask questions or communicates with professor occasionally. Completes assignments and is prepared & punctual at least 70% of the time. Maintains passable (but not perfect) management skills (formatting assignments, following directions, organization). Needs support in maintaining good classroom decorum. Portfolio is at least 70 % complete.

D Student completes only the minimum requirements for the course, or chooses not to complete many homework and informal assignments. Has a lot to learn about / or / chooses not to maintain a professional, organized, punctual presence in class. Asks questions rarely, and participates in class discussion, group work, etc. only when prompted. Maintains little to no contact with professor. Completes assignments and is prepared & punctual at least 60% of the time. Needs support in maintaining good classroom decorum. Portfolio is at least 60 % complete.

F If a student completes less than 60% of the work required for the portfolio, and / or if the participation in class is so abysmal that the student has barely done the minimum to contribute to the class, the student will earn an "F" for the portfolio grade.

Record the grade you hope to earn for your Participation/Portfolio grade (30% of overall average) in the space below, and share any reasons why you hope to earn the grade, any comments, or any concerns you have.

