

RHET 103 Grading Contract*

Spring 2024 • Professor Christine Young

RHET 103-30 MWF 10:30-11:35am & RHET 103-20 2:15-3:20pm

**Based on contracts designed by Prof. Beth Osbourne (Florida State University) and Prof. Nicole Gonzales Howell (University of San Francisco)*

Edited 4/17/24

Grading Policy Overview

This class does not use a traditional grading system. Instead, we'll use a labor-based grading contract. This means, your work will be graded for its level of completion. In other words, you'll be graded on your effort and engagement in the course, rather than for meeting a subjective standard of excellence. Such systems have been developed to better recognize the diverse bodies and minds that are in the classroom and to more equitably meet each other's needs as learner and instructor.

Each student will decide for which grade they will complete the required assignments. Once a student has committed to that grade tier, they are guaranteed that grade, if they complete all of the required activities. The + will be added to the grade level if the work shows exemplary effort and is consistently timely and the - will be added to the grade if the work is cursory or superficial or consistently late. Students have the right to resubmit the contract, after asking permission from the instructor, to attempt a different grade up until the last day of coursework on May 8, 2024.

Terms of the Contract

The spirit of this contract is to prioritize the experience of the learning process, heighten the emphasis on collaboration and participation, and center the value of learning how to speak well. If you honestly complete the assignments and activities of this course on time, regardless of the quality of the finished product, you will be successful in this course to the degree you have chosen to participate. **You cannot pass the class without attending a minimum of 25 classes and completing 2 out of 5 major assignments including the Persuasive Speech.** All coursework MUST be submitted by May 15, 2024 to be considered for credit for the course. There are no extensions beyond this date.

Tracking Your Grade

We will use Canvas as our learning platform, but not the Canvas gradebook. Instead, I will keep a record of your grades in my own grade book. You may check in with me at any time during the semester to see where you stand. At the end of each Module, I will provide a worksheet to help you track your progress toward your chosen final grade. Assignments will be graded as "complete" (meets all assignment standards) or "incomplete" (missing all or some assignment standards). **Students will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit incomplete assignments for each Module up until a week after the Module is completed:**

- Module 1 final assignment submissions due Friday March 1, 2024
- Module 2 final assignment submissions due [Friday, April 19, 2024 at 5pm](#)
- Module 3 final assignment submissions due [Friday, May 17, 2024 at 5pm](#)

Accommodations

The goal of the grading contract is to meet you where you are in your learning experience and to support you in growing as a critical thinker, reader, writer, communicator and collaborator. Additionally, the purpose of the grading contract is to ensure students have the opportunity to work in a just environment that adapts to their needs and equitably supports each student's learning. Thus, when necessary, I will work with individuals on a case-by-case basis to determine how best to accommodate your needs as a learner while achieving the course's learning outcomes. Ultimately, the grading contract functions as a model for forming professional relationships and professional communication practices.

Grade Tier Requirements

All assignments will include clear instructions about what constitutes "complete" work.

Assignment Category	% of final grade	A Level	B Level	C Level
Major Assignments	50%	Complete 5 of 5 of major assignments	Complete 4 of 5 of major assignments	Complete 3 of 5 of major assignments
Homework	20%	Complete 90% of homework assignments	Complete 80% of homework assignments	Complete 70% of homework assignments
Attendance**	20%	Attend 38 of 42 in-person classes = 4 or fewer absences	Attend 34 of 42 in-person classes = 8 or fewer absences	Attend 29 of 42 in-person classes = 13 or fewer absences
Class Community & Respectful Engagement	10%	Complete 6 of 6 of class community assignments Consistently: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• listen and participate in class• communicate with professor• behave in a cordial and respectful manner toward classmates and professor	Complete 4 of 6 of class community assignments Frequently: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• listen and participate in class• communicate with professor• behave in a cordial and respectful manner toward classmates and professor	Complete 3 of 6 of class community assignments Occasionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• listen and participate in class• communicate with professor• behave in a cordial and respectful manner toward classmates and professor

Major Assignments

There are **5 major assignments** for this course:

- **What's in a Name? Speech** (live extemporaneous speech based on personal experience, 2-3 min)
- **Perspective Speech** - (recorded scripted speech based on personal experience, 2-3 min)
- **Persuasive Speech** (live extemporaneous speech based on research, 5-8 min)
- **Policy Brief** (live group presentation based on research, 15 min)
- **Final Reflection** (750-1,000-word essay)

Final Grade of D-, D or D+

If you want to receive a low-level passing grade in the D range, you will need to attend at least 25 of 42 classes, complete at least 3 major assignments including the Persuasive Speech, and attempt some of the reflections. Your final grade of D-, D or D+ rests on the sole discretion of the instructor.

**** Attendance Accommodation:** Some students may receive attendance accommodation (A level = 8 absences, B level = 13 absences) due to participation in USF athletic competition, SDS accommodation, chronic health conditions, or extraordinary personal circumstances. If you believe you need attendance accommodation (for one of the reasons listed above), please contact Professor Young to discuss. You will know if you have been granted attendance accommodation because you will receive an email from Professor Young confirming your accommodation status.