

## Grading and Learning Outcomes Section of a Hypothetical Syllabus Where the Course Uses Specifications Grading

### ***For a D:***

Pass three midterms and the final exam with a total average score of at least 70%. The work that passing these exams will require will give you minimal, recognition-level mastery of most of the course material.

### ***For a C:***      ***All that is required for a D, plus:***

Turn in a one-page, typewritten outline or concept map of *each reading assignment* on the day it is due. Each outline or concept map will be considered “acceptable” if it fulfills the length and formatting requirements, shows a good faith effort, and does not closely resemble anyone else’s. Two late OR unacceptable turn-ins (only two), are allowed for any reason. (Exceeding two exceptions drops one’s course grade to a D automatically.) This additional series of assignments will help ensure that you read all the assigned reading material thoroughly and leave the course with a decent mastery of it, including the ability to recognize and explain it.

### ***For a B:***      ***All that is required for a C, plus:***

Write four reflection papers, each typewritten 500-700 words and turned in on time, on your progress made in mastering the material. Be sure to analyze these factors: what study, not-taking reading, and other learning methods you have been using; your areas of strength and comfort as a result; your remaining areas of confusion, difficulty, and/or discomfort; and what else you plan to do to master especially challenging material. This additional series of writing assignments will help ensure that you reflect on the course material and the process of your learning it, thereby helping to ensure you leave the course with a good mastery of both the material and how you best learn it so you can pursue the subject matter efficiently in the future.

### ***For an A:***      ***All that is required for a B, plus:***

You will be placed on a team with other students pursuing A’s to solve a major real-world problem using the course material. Like all good problem-based learning problems, you will have to identify unknowns and conduct research beyond the course material to develop a sound solution. The problem will be “fuzzy” in that it will have more than one possible approach and solution, but some will be better than others. This additional assignment will help ensure that not only will you have mastered the material and know how you best learn it, but you can also apply it, research additional related material, and synthesize it all to solve a genuine problem facing the world today.

*(Other possible A-level assignments: well-researched policy statement; sound strategic or business plan; research proposal; corporate annual report; substantial newspaper, magazine, or journal article(s); concept map of specified subject matter displaying its organization and issues.)*