

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

HOW YOUR TERM GRADE IS CALCULATED

Unit Exams (20%)

Any information covered in required readings, class notes, handouts, video clips, and homework assignments may be included on the unit exam. Unit exams consist of fill-in-the-blanks, short answers, and an open response question. There will be one unit exam per term.

Quizzes (20%)

Quizzes will be more frequent than exams (expect at least six a term) and will be in the form of unannounced reading quizzes and scheduled SAT vocabulary quizzes.

Term Papers / Formal Presentations (20%)

Since writing is a key component of any language arts course, students will be responsible for one major paper each semester, one of which will require outside research. For the term in which you will not be writing a research paper, you will be responsible for delivering a custom-made PowerPoint presentation to the class. Rubrics for both assignments are available on my teacher website.

Written Homework (20%)

Homework is an integral part of the course. In addition to reading, you will also be asked to complete some written assignments. At the beginning of each week, I post a syllabus of the homework assignments on my teacher website. Using the calendar can help you manage your time and your work. Written homework assignments are due at the beginning of class—there are no exceptions to this rule. I always accept late assignments, but you can only receive half credit.

Class Participation / In-class Assignments (20%)

All students are expected to behave appropriately in class, treating each member of the class with respect. Regular attendance to class is imperative. Skipping class or exhibiting disrespect in class will result in a reduced final grade. In-class worksheets, writing prompts, group projects, etc. will be evaluated at the completion of the assignment.

Homework Assignments and In-class Assignments are Graded in the Following Way:

- √+ = 100 Student's work exceeded expectations for the assignment
- √ = 90 Student's work met the minimal expectations for the assignment
- √- = 50 Student's work was handed in late or did not meet the minimal expectations
- 0 = 0 The assignment was not passed in

CLASSROOM RULES

Cell Phones or Other Portable Devices – Cell phones have become a real disruption to the learning process at Algonquin. You may not charge your cell phone or have it visible during the class period. The only exception to this rule is if you use your smartphone to actually enrich your learning—Quizlet, audiobooks, homework assignments, etc...

Packing your Things before the End of Class and Lining up at the Door – This is probably my biggest pet peeve. Please do not do it. If there are ever a few minutes at the end of class, please remain seated until the bell rings and read or work on your homework.

Late Term Papers / Presentations – Term papers may be handed in late, but you will lose 10 points for each day it is late. In the past I've had students e-mail blank files. Mistakes do happen, but to be fair to the students who handed their papers in on time, the paper is still late until I have the actual document.

Required Materials – A three ring binder for note-taking, open responses, and handouts, and a USB flash drive for computer work. Always remember to bring the current book we are reading to class.

