Tools for Engaging Inclusion

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Contract Grading
Pedagogical Principles

• **Empower** students to choose their own path for success depending on time commitment

• **Reward** effort and consistency

• Entails a **contracted number of assignments** of specified quality

• Contracted amount of work corresponds to specific letter grades
Key Advantages for Students

+ Focus on getting the most out of each assignment
+ Consistent engagement with course material
+ Enjoy the writing process
+ Final grade determined by effort
+ Individual assignments not graded in the traditional manner with a letter grade
Contract Grading System

Qualitative over the Quantitative

Key Advantages for Instructors

- Focus (in feedback) on substantive matters
- Not focusing on justifying a grade
- Address the strengths and weaknesses of the work
- Simulate how things work in the real world: scholarly peer reviews provide constructive, substantive feedback without a “grade”
## Example of a Contract Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Work Completed</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A range</td>
<td>All short reflections</td>
<td>Attended all classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B range</td>
<td>All but one reflections</td>
<td>Missed 2 class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C range</td>
<td>All but two reflections</td>
<td>Missed 4 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D range</td>
<td>All but three reflections</td>
<td>Missed 6 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fewer than 3 reflections</td>
<td>Missed more than 6 classes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Fine Print

- All contracted conditions for a particular grade have to be met
- No “rounding up”
- Flexibility: But timeliness is the key
- Learn time management skills
Win, Win!
Let’s Put This to Work in the Classroom
Collaborative Annotation
Assignment: Write and Respond to Commentary

Open-Access Online Platforms

- Before each class, students share comments or annotations
- Based on a text, image, or short video
- Read each others’ comments
- Respond to them
- Arrive in class well prepared for in-person discussion
- Perfect for online classes too
In Praise of the Short Form

Free-form responses
Collaborative commentary builds communities

Goals

● Digital annotation tools promote collaborative learning
● Structured around analyses of both texts and films through annotation
● Example: Contextualized discussions that connect pre-modern texts and modern cultural life
● Critical writing is communal (no longer solitary)
● Critical writing is interactive (no longer linear)
● Sustainable student engagement
A cluster of candles sitting on the wall sheds faint light in the darkness.

In a candlelit room, a female stagehand is adjusting a curly red hairpiece.

A woman adjusts a red-haired wig while standing to the left of a seated person.

In a candlelit room, a thin white woman stands beside a thin white man.

A young white man is sitting at a vanity and looking into a mirror, we see...

The reversal position between the man and woman. The man is sitting...

Two young white people are in a dark room, dimly lit only by a small light source from behind...

A man sits at a vanity, removing his stage makeup and clothing.

In the foreground, there is a young, blonde woman in a white blouse.

The White Man is sitting in the chair and looking up at the Blackman...
The idea of a “happiness script” which involves heterosexual relationships in particularly interesting in light of the three films we have watched so far—all of which show a trans character pursuing the structure of a heterosexual relationship as a form of achieving happiness. Yet, this happiness is also achieved in tandem with a being trans—something which Ahmed’s would argue deviates from the structured script of happiness (resulting in unhappy queers). I think in Brandon we see the most clear rejection of this idea that deviation can involve unhappiness. Having experienced the consequences of deviation, Brandon still recognizes that without these deviations he cannot be happy, even though this happiness may have to emerge from an initial experience of unhappiness. That being said, Brandon still makes clear efforts to act the way his friends expect a boy to act, showing the allure of following these pre-determined happiness scripts, this time in terms of gender performance rather than in terms of a heterosexual relationship as Ahmed is primarily concerned with.

In neoliberal capitalist society, @Mallory McGovern “happiness” as a form of socially condoned pursuit can be harmful, as Ahmed points out, hence the problem with “happiness scripts.” There are promises and compromises that come with this “happiness script.” With Brandon in Boys Don’t Cry, we see the penalty for anyone, particularly queer and trans characters, who deviate from the social script of happiness: to make people around them unhappy (when they are unhappy they threaten to kill and eliminate queer characters) and to make themselves unhappy and undesirable.
Collaborative Annotation

Leads to student engagement

Key Advantages for All

+ Become part of a community
+ Empowered to contextualize course materials
+ Interactive inclusiveness
+ Independent research skills
+ Social space for free-form responses
Open-Access Textbook
Open-Access Textbook by Alexa Alice Joubin

- screenshakespeare.org
- Openly-licensed, interactive learning modules introduce students to key concepts of film and Shakespeare studies
- Designed with the principle of equitable redundancy and multimodal access
- Multiple pathways to the contents with plenty of cross-references
- Access the contents in a non-linear fashion
Social Justice

Many screen adaptations of the classics are informed by social justice concerns. Films construct a social space—a space for socialization and discussion of social justice issues—where the characters’ and audiences’ universes intersect. Some films imagine the classics to have a remedial effect on our society.
Open-Access Textbook by Alexa Alice Joubin

- screenshakespeare.org
- Replaces three expensive, traditional textbooks
- Multimedia and interactive features not available in any textbook
- Customizable and modularized contents ("lesson tiles")
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