

EVALUATION

In this course, I will not be giving you grades. Instead, you will be giving yourself evaluations with my assistance. Why? Many reasons:

- Working to impress me for a grade is far, far less valuable than working to impress yourself.
- Evaluations are an opportunity to be honest and open about how you feel about your work.
- Evaluation of work is a critical skill that will be incredibly valuable for literally the rest of your life, way past the time when letter grades matter to anyone.
- Evaluations are a chance to engage in a conversation and examination about what makes work “good” or “bad.”
- Rather than trying to make decisions based on what you think will make me give you an “A” for the class, you can make decisions on what best serves the project and your own interests and curiosities.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

How do you evaluate yourself? There are three sets of criteria that you will use to evaluate your activity in this class:

- 1. Process (50% of total score):** This is the most important part of your education (and especially the most important part of this class). You are in college to learn creative practice, and a lot of this is about learning how to make and think. Process is all of the actions you take and decisions you make. It is how you choose to make things, and how you actually make them. It is also about how predictable or safe your decisions are, or how risky and unpredictable they could be. It is about your sense of inquiry and discovery, and the insight you gain from all the above.

- 3. Engagement (30% of total score):** This is your attitude and behavior toward the class. This includes attendance, lateness, paying attention, being prepared, participation in discussions, and your general demeanor towards the class: Do you show up on time? Do you care? Are you invested in the projects? Are you interested in the work? Are you positive and curious? Do you accept feedback? Do you give feedback? Do you work well with others? The “engagement policy” on the course syllabus reflects this stuff as well.

- 3. Artifacts (20% of total score):** The things you hand in, also known as the “deliverables.” This includes the “final” things, as well as the interim things you make weekly or daily as required by the project. Evaluation of the artifacts include things like how they look aesthetically, how they communicate and convey ideas, how relevant and powerful they are, and how well they are crafted and created.

METHOD

Having gone through at least a dozen years of formal education so far, you have become highly attenuated to what the *letter* of a grade represents, rather than the actual evaluation and critique should represent. Therefore instead of giving yourself letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F), you will give yourself a score between 1 and 10.

At the end of each project, I will give you an evaluation sheet which you will fill out honestly and objectively and hand back to me. Unless I very strongly disagree with your evaluation, I will post this score you gave yourself to myCourses. At the end of the semester, these scores will be averaged into your final letter grade for the course. Note that these evaluations are private and will not be shared or discussed with your classmates.

PROJECT: SURFACE RESEARCH

YOUR NAME:

Notes: You are not trying to guess what you think Mitch would give you, you are trying to give yourself an honest and objective evaluation of what you have done. Ask if you are unclear about what the scores or the criteria mean.

Give yourself a score between 1 to 10 for each of the 3 elements, which are weighted as follows:

Process = 50%

Engagement = 30%

Artifacts = 20%.

You are encouraged to discuss this evaluation with Mitch after you have filled it out. The score you give yourself is the score you will get, unless Mitch very strongly disagrees with it, in which case he will ask to discuss it with you privately (this goes for scores that are way, way too high or way, way too low.)

This method of evaluation is intended to spark a conversation about your work —especially with yourself and your own expectations of what you have made and how you have made it.

The more honest and objective you are on this evaluation, the more you will get out of this class. It sounds incredibly silly to write this down, but it is true: **if you lie on these evaluations, you are only lying to yourself.**

PROCESS (1 TO 10):

1 = Horrible. No interest or inquiry. No risk taking. Barely making choices and doing so without much thought or investment. Predictable, uninspired, and uninteresting thinking and making. Removed and dismissive of the projects.

5 = Good. Solid process. Good interest & curiosity. Takes some risks, and tries new things. Thinks about choices, and is invested in the projects.

10 = Extraordinary. Intense inquiry and curiosity. Very big risks. Unpredictable work, with excellent thinking and decision making. Highly invested and incredibly into the projects.

ENGAGEMENT (1 TO 10):

1 = Horrible. Often late and/or absent. Rarely speak during crits. Distracted. Often on phone during class. Uninterested and unmotivated. Acts like you don't care about the class, the projects, or the other students. Little to no effort.

5 = Good. On time and few if any missed classes. Pays attention. Offer feedback during crits. Interested and motivated. Takes feedback seriously. Tries. Cares about the class, the projects, and the other students.

10 = Extraordinary. Always on time and no missed classes. Deep attention. Constantly offers feedback during crits. Extremely interested and highly motivated. Excited and hungry to receive feedback. Deeply cares about the class, the projects, and the other students.

ARTIFACTS (1 TO 10):

1 = Horrible. Uninteresting. Extremely bad craft. Badly executed aesthetics. Meaningless and emotionless. Inappropriate and irrelevant. Make no sense and says nothing.

5 = Good. Interesting. Good craft, and good aesthetics. Meaningful and says something. Appropriate and relevant. Makes sense and does what it is supposed to.

10 = Extraordinary. Incredibly interesting and exciting. Excellent craft and amazing aesthetics. Meaningful and purposeful. Appropriate and highly relevant. Makes a powerful statement.

COMMENTS (OPTIONAL):