

HOW YOU'RE GRADED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICUM 2016

Your grade in this class will turn three elements: class participation, a self-evaluation, and your written work-product portfolio. The overwhelming bulk of your grade (80%) will come from your portfolio.

1. Class participation (roughly 10%). Hopefully you'll feel energized and motivated to comment in class because of our exciting class topics and materials. I'll give you credit for your class participation according to the Law Center's policies – i.e., I can adjust your grade upward or downward by a half-grade based on your input (e.g., from B+ to A-).
2. Self-evaluation (10%). Each of you will need to provide me with a self-evaluation of your written work and your performance in class. In addition, I will ask you to provide confidential assessments of your teammates' work on joint projects. Be candid, but – more importantly – be fair.
3. Written work-product portfolio (80%). You'll likely develop each of your work projects in at least two stages (draft and final product). I will base your grade on your final work product and the effort reflected in the earlier drafting stage. **DEADLINES ARE CRITICAL AND MUST BE OBSERVED.** When you enter the work place, a failure to observe client or judicial deadlines is the surest route to malpractice. Unless you contact me in advance and offer an alternative arrangement to assure that our client's work is completed on time, I will deduct a half-letter grade from your work for every day that it is late. If the client specifies that a project is particularly time sensitive and we miss the deadline, you will get no credit for your project. A day late, in that case, is the same as not submitting the work at all.

Your written work portfolio will include comments on drafts and work product from other teams. In particular, I expect each of you to comment on two projects for every project that you do yourself. This commenting process should give you some valuable perspectives that you can use in your own projects (and will help improve the quality of the work for our clients).

More generally, there will not be a final exam in this class – your grade will rest solely on your performance in class, your portfolio, and input from your self-evaluation. I will provide opportunities for extra credit when possible, but they can only shift your grade by a relatively small amount.

As always, please talk with me if you have any concerns about your work, deadlines, or unexpected complications in your life. Early warning will give us the ability to solve most problems. Thanks!