

Professor Oros's Course Policies

Please familiarize yourself with my general course policies, common to all of my courses.

This information also is available at: <http://andreworos.washcoll.edu> – “For My Students” link on left

Open Door: Come talk to me! ...during office hours, or any time my door is open – about the course, politics today, future goals, or whatever you like. In particular, if you are having difficulty following course material, lectures, discussion, or assignments, please come ask for guidance. At times, 2½ hours of class time per week is not enough to feel comfortable with new ideas or demands.

Important Note on Plagiarism: Using someone else's words or ideas without attribution constitutes an offense of “plagiarism” that is grounds for failure of the course or expulsion under college regulations. When in doubt, cite – or, better yet, ask me for guidance. * *Please note that I scrutinize this issue more closely than many, and take violations very seriously.*

Attendance Policy: If you are not in class, you cannot contribute to discussion and your grade will suffer. In the case of *all* absences (whether excused or not), you are responsible for speaking to me *and to fellow students* about what you missed in class, and ultimately are responsible for all of the material you missed. I reserve the right to administer quizzes to students who are absent from class in order to measure class preparedness. *I do not track “excused” versus “unexcused” absences. If you miss more than a few classes for any reason, you will be expected to complete quizzes or other alternative assignments to boost your course participation grade.* Excessive absences may result in a reduction in your final course grade, including potential failure of the course.

Letter grades will be given for each assignment. I do not use numerical scoring (except to record grades in Canvas – see below). *Please note that I award A's only for exceptional work.* I consider a C to reflect *average* work. If, in your assignments, you largely repeat classroom discussion and show a casual knowledge of course readings, you should expect a C. *This includes grades for classroom participation.* B's require reflection, analysis, and integration of diverse course materials. A's require creativity and thorough mastery of course materials, often supplemented with additional material. * There is a big difference between an F and a O – I therefore urge you to complete all course assignments, even if they are submitted late.

Late Work Policy: I encourage you to submit work on-time, as you will be penalized if you do not – a reduction of one third letter grade (eg., B to B-, A- to B+) each day. I will not accept late work after graded assignments have been returned in class. Only in extraordinary circumstances will exceptions be considered, such as a documented medical condition, family emergency, or other course obligation. *Do please speak to me if there are such extraordinary circumstances that keep you from doing your best on graded work.* Please see andreworos.washcoll.edu @ “for my students” for further information on requirements for submission of late work.

Make-up examinations will be given only in extraordinary circumstances and, whenever possible, should be scheduled *in advance* of the absence.

Use of Canvas is required for my courses. Some readings and other course materials (such as copies of assignments and this syllabus) will be posted on the Canvas web-site for this course. Students registered for the course also may email each other using a list of students posted on Canvas. Canvas is accessible from the main “student” web-page from washcoll.edu, or directly at washcoll.instructure.com. **Log-in** just as you do for Webmail: enter your College network id (the part before the @ of your email address) and your email password.

Canvas Gradebook: Grades for all course assignments will be posted for your *private* review on Canvas. Letter grades on each assignment are translated into numerical scores for this purpose as follows: A+ (98), A (95), A- (92), B+ (88), etc. Grades of F will be computed on an individual basis from a range of 0-59. Please note that failure to complete an assignment will result in a 0 for the assignment, creating a serious penalty. Final course grades will be determined *based on* final Canvas percentages, but ultimately will be scored using a modified curve that will take into account improvement (or, conversely, slacking) over the course of the semester.

Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students with disabilities documented at Washington College with the Office of Academic Skills (in Miller Library) *beginning at the time written documentation is provided to me.*