

## Labour-Based Grading

### Introduction

Labour-based grading (LBG) is a pedagogical model for feedback and assessment that places an emphasis on the work (labour) that you do in the course rather than the specific outcomes. LBG is particularly well suited for courses and topics where a practice (a writing practice, a creative practice, etc.) is a key focus. This is because LBG places an emphasis on progression, inquiry, and experimentation rather than mastery or memorization.

### Feedback and Labour Based Grading

This course decouples feedback as part of the learning process from grades and places value onto the labour that you put into this course in order to allow more room for growth, failure, and risk-taking in the work that you are doing. None of the feedback you get in this course will be in the form of a percent, letter grade, or score - but this does not mean you will not get feedback, in fact you will actually get more. The feedback that you receive, from both your classmates and myself, will be focused on supporting and helping to build your ideas - you may be provided with further avenues for enquiry, perspectives you had not considered, or other types of feedback you desire.

While this course values your labour (the work you make, the feedback you give, and the ways you contribute to conversations), a mark is still required at the end of term. In the spirit of valuing labour though, your mark will be based on the work you complete rather than being assessed against a universal "standard" of quality. The labour that this course asks of you is outlined below.

### Work towards B+

- 7 out of 8 Weekly Activities
- 3 Connect & Extend end-of-unit assignments
- 1 Outcomes Project WIP submission
- 1 Outcomes Project Feedback Session
- 1 Outcomes Project Final Submission

If you do all the above work, and submit it on time, then at the end of the term that will be a B+. Because much of what happens in this course is based on each other's work, turning things in on time and being prepared for discussions is essential. However, things happen, so everyone also gets a free pass on an assignment not submitted on time (without an extension). You do not need to let me know you are using this, I will just assume that if there's an assignment turned in late then that's the one you meant to use it on. Turning in work late without an extension twice will result in moving down a step (B+ becomes a B).

If you have the capacity and interest in doing more than this baseline labour, you can complete the optional labour shown below. This additional labour is designed to benefit others in the class as well as yourself.

### **Work towards A-**

All the same work as for a B+ and **One** of the following:

- Lead a discussion/workshop/activity in seminar in a group of 1-4
- Complete a peer-review for any of the end-of-unit assignments
- Coordinate an additional Outcomes Project feedback session with someone from outside your project group

### **Work towards A**

All the same work as for a B+ and **Two** of the following:

- Lead a discussion/workshop/activity in seminar in a group of 1-4
- Complete a peer-review for any of the end-of-unit assignments
- Coordinate an additional Outcomes Project feedback session with someone from outside your project group

### **Work towards A+**

All the same work as for a B+ and **Three** of the following:

- Lead a discussion/workshop/activity in seminar in a group of 1-4
- Complete a peer-review for any of the end-of-unit assignments
- Coordinate an additional Outcomes Project feedback session with someone from outside your project group

If you will need an extension on any of the work in this class, please be sure to email me with at least 24hr advanced notice. If you are ill or experiencing an emergency, you do not need a doctor's note or other form of proof in order to have deadlines extended, please just email me as soon as you are able to let me know you won't meet the submission time.

### **Feedback**

To help set expectations, the following is a list of key moments in the course when you can expect to get feedback from me. If you would like additional feedback on any activity or assignment, please let me know and we can arrange a time to meet and discuss. We will also talk more about feedback before you submit your first Connect and Extend assignment.

1. Feedback on your first Weekly Activity (if submitted on time) will be given by end of day on Thursday, September 21. This feedback will be short, simply advising you of whether or not your assignment met the minimum criteria
2. Feedback on your Connect and Extend end-of-unit assignment for Unit 1 (if submitted on time) will be given by November 6. This feedback will be a more in-depth response to your submission that takes up the topics you chose to focus on.
3. Feedback on your Connect and Extend end-of-unit assignment for Unit 2 (if submitted on time) will be given by December 1. This feedback will be a more in-depth response to your submission that takes up the topics you chose to focus on.
4. Feedback on your Connect and Extend end-of-unit assignment for Unit 3 (if submitted on time) will be given by December 11. This feedback will be a shorter response than the prior two as it will not focus on development.
5. Feedback on your in-progress Outcomes project will be given in 1:1 meetings on December 4+5, mostly during our class time.
6. Feedback on your completed Outcomes project is optional. If you elect to receive feedback on it, then you will receive it by December 19.