

## The Major Difference in This Class about Objective Work: Self-Tests and Full-Tests

Objective work is work that *machines can grade*. The challenge is that the content that machines can grade are can be very hard for humans to learn, especially if they did not have much experience as young learners.

- Several years ago, what was very concerning to me was that **more and more** students—**but not all**—were failing at history because they were failing basic vocabulary and map locations and therefore they could not read either course materials or the textbook
- An additional part of the challenge was to make this fair to students:
  - Who **already knew** the vocabulary or map locations and should **not** have to click on a second quiz.
  - Who did **not know** the vocabulary and needed to drill (repeatedly test) to learn the words or map locations

### Given the 2 Things Above, How Were Some Students Being Hurt?

- If they did not learn these basics, they would not understand not just a history course, but also their colleagues, their bosses, and perhaps the person interviewing them for a job. They could be easily tricked by public information whether in print, online, or other media.
- If they did not learn these basics, they would have to work much harder to pass the course.

### Attempts to Make It Easier for All Students to Deal with Basic Vocabulary and Map Locations

I went to the Chair of the History Department to propose a remedy coming out of prior experience in industry and in a graduate program about education in community colleges in northern Virginia. The remedy was:

- Create Learning Quizzes on essential vocabulary and map locations
  - Have the student take a Self-Test version at .01 point (like a penny out of a dollar) each so students could find out what they know and do not know at no loss of points.
  - Having Blackboard then display aids if needed and a Full-Test version at 1 or more points each, with the highest score counting so students who needed to could take it repeatedly (drill) until they learned the words or map locations.
- To increase the odds students would take these quizzes, put 8 questions from the each Unit on its Unit Exam.

### A Visual to Help You: How a Self-Test and its Full-Test Works

**Password for All Self-Tests:** selftest <Notice no spaces, no punctuation, no capitals

**Read** each row **side by side** to **compare** what happens when you take a Self-Test depending on:

- Whether you are **correct about 80% or more** of the questions (left side)
- Whether you are **correct on 79% or fewer** of the questions (right side)

↙	↘
You are right <b>80% or more</b> of the questions. Notice what you missed.	You are right <b>79% or fewer</b> of the questions. Notice what you missed. <b>Tip:</b> You can always go back to look at the Self-Test again.
↓	↓
Blackboard sometimes displays resources, such as dictionary definitions.  If you made more than a 0, Blackboard <b>always</b> displays the Full-Test.	Blackboard sometimes displays resources to help you, such as dictionary definitions. If it does, use Ctrl-F (Find) to search the resources for what you missed. (Ask if you need help.) If Blackboard does <b>not</b> display the Full-Test, you made a <b>0</b> on the Self-Test. <b>Tip:</b> You can confirm that at My Grades.)  <b>If you do make a 0</b> , email your instructor in Course Messages the <b>exact</b> name of the Self-Test. I will <b>reply back</b> that I deleted the 0 so you can take the Self-Test again
↓	↓
<b>If you want to, you may take the Full-Test,</b>	You take its Full-Test until you make the highest points.

but you do <b>not</b> need to.	Your highest score counts.
When the Unit tests close, your instructor enters Full points <b>for</b> you.	
↓	↓
You have the <b>Full</b> points because you <b>already knew it</b> .	You have the Full points because you <b>taught yourself</b> .

If you want to see all of the objective work, look at the **yellow** below Unit 1, 2, and 3 and the Final Exam.

**List of Due Dates-Print ME!** Check off  each **box** on the **left** as you finish. Notice **black** headings for **all** Writings.

**Tips:** For success, use what is at the **top** of **each** folder. **Ask** if you need help! All tips in Unit 1 apply to **all** Units.

**Getting Started in This Course – Course Overview and Orientation (Start date to end date)**

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
Required Reading	• All documents located in Getting Started	A date range	--
Graded Assignment(s)	• Introductory Tasks at the <b>end</b> of Course Orientation	A due date	45

**Unit 1: The title of the unit (Start date to end date)**

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
Required Reading	• Study Guide <b>with</b> 4 Lesson Links (Optional Chapters 1-8)	A date range	--
Graded Assignment(s)	• Learning Quizzes <b>Tip:</b> See syllabus for incentives & why 80%+	A due date by 11:59 PM	70
Exam	• Unit 1 Exam <b>Tip:</b> Read <b>About Unit Exams</b> (bottom of all Units)	An exam's beginning date to Its ending date by 11:59	100

**1<sup>st</sup> Part Writing: Evidence Quiz & Your Paper (Start date to end date)**

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
Required Reading	• 2 primaries <b>and</b> 1 video <b>Tip:</b> Look at these <b>as</b> you work.	A date range	--
Graded Assignment(s)	• Evidence Quiz <b>Tip:</b> Score 80+% to see the writing Discussion.	A due date by 11:59 PM	40
	• 1 <sup>st</sup> Part Writing <b>Tip:</b> See syllabus for OVERWRITE 1, 2, 3.	A due date by 11:59 PM	100

**Unit 2: The title of the unit (Start date to end date)**

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
Required Reading	• Study Guide <b>with</b> 4 Lesson Links (Optional Chapters 9-14)	A date range	--
Graded Assignment(s)	• Learning Quizzes	A due date by 11:59 PM	50
Exam	• Unit 2 Exam	An exam's beginning date to Its ending date by 11:59	100

**2<sup>nd</sup> Part Writing: Fact-Checking & Plagiarism-Checking 2 Students' Papers (Start date to end date)**

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
Required Reading	• <b>Same</b> 2 primaries <b>and</b> 1 video <b>Tip:</b> Look at these <b>as</b> you work.	A date range	--
Graded Assignment(s)	• 2 <sup>nd</sup> Part Writing to help you and 2 students @ 50 points each	October 3 by 11:59 PM	100

**Unit 3: The title of the unit (Start date to end date)**

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
Required Reading	• Study Guide <b>with</b> 3 Lesson Links (Optional Chapters 15-22)	A date range	--
Graded Assignment(s)	• Learning Quizzes	October 18 by 11:59 PM	80
Exam	• Unit 3 Exam	An exam's beginning date to Its ending date by 11:59	100

**3<sup>rd</sup> Part Writing: Evidence-Centered Reply to 2 Students' Feedback (Start date to end date)**

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
Required Reading	• <b>Same</b> 2 primaries <b>and</b> 1 video <b>Tip:</b> Look at these <b>as</b> you work.	A date range	--
Graded Assignment(s)	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> Part Writing to help you and 2 students @ 50 points each	October 11 by 11:59 PM.	100

**Respondus & Final Exam (Start date to end date) – Opens EARLY for Respondus Practice & History Review**

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
Required Reading	• <b>About Sample Respondus Exam and Final Exam</b> (at the top) • All documents located in the Respondus folder	A date range	--

Assignment Type	Assignment	Date Range/Due Date	Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History Review—a link to questions and to answers</li> <li><b>About the Final</b> (at the bottom, above where the exam <b>will</b> be)</li> </ul>		
<b>Graded Assignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample Respondus Exam <b>Tip:</b> When done, the Review is visible. Prof's video check: October 10-11 and 16-17. <b>Caution:</b> To take the Final Exam, you <b>must</b> do this exam.</li> </ul>	An exam's beginning date to its ending date by 11:59	15
<b>Final Exam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Exam –Prof's video check: October 19-22. Exam grades may change <b>after</b> the video check. <b>History Department policy: No Final Exam – then an F for the whole course. Please take it!</b></li> </ul>	An exam's beginning date to its ending date by 11:59	100

*I reserve the right to modify the syllabus during the semester.*