

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 80% or more of the questions. Notice what you missed. | You are right 79% or fewer of the questions. Notice what you missed. Tip: 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 always 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 not display the Full-Test, you made a 0 on the Self-Test. Tip: You can confirm that at My Grades.) If you do make a 0 , email your instructor in Course Messages the exact name of the Self-Test. I will reply back that I deleted the 0 so you can take the Self-Test again |
| ↓ | ↓ |
| If you want to, you may take the Full-Test, | You take its Full-Test until you make the highest points. |

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

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 end 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 with 4 Lesson Links (Optional Chapters 1-8) | A date range | -- |
| Graded Assignment(s) | • Learning Quizzes Tip: See syllabus for incentives & why 80%+ | A due date by 11:59 PM | 70 |
| Exam | • Unit 1 Exam Tip: Read About Unit Exams (bottom of all Units) | An exam's beginning date to Its ending date by 11:59 | 100 |

1st Part Writing: Evidence Quiz & Your Paper (Start date to end date)

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

2nd Part Writing: Fact-Checking & Plagiarism-Checking 2 Students' Papers (Start date to end date)

| Assignment Type | Assignment | Date Range/Due Date | Points |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------|--------|
| Required Reading | • Same 2 primaries and 1 video Tip: Look at these as you work. | A date range | -- |
| Graded Assignment(s) | • 2 nd 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 with 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 |

3rd Part Writing: Evidence-Centered Reply to 2 Students' Feedback (Start date to end date)

| Assignment Type | Assignment | Date Range/Due Date | Points |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------|--------|
| Required Reading | • Same 2 primaries and 1 video Tip: Look at these as you work. | A date range | -- |
| Graded Assignment(s) | • 3 rd 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 | • About Sample Respondus Exam and Final Exam (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"> History Review—a link to questions and to answers About the Final (at the bottom, above where the exam will be) | | |
| Graded Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample Respondus Exam Tip: When done, the Review is visible. Prof's video check: October 10-11 and 16-17. Caution: To take the Final Exam, you must do this exam. | An exam's beginning date to its ending date by 11:59 | 15 |
| Final Exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam —Prof's video check: October 19-22. Exam grades may change after the video check. History Department policy: No Final Exam – then an F for the whole course. Please take it! | An exam's beginning date to its ending date by 11:59 | 100 |

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