

Syllabus

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Overview

We have a computer-based system of instruction. Except for the final exam, we do not administer tests in my class. Tests are used to measure how much a student knows on a particular day. In my classes, assignments, which may look like tests, are used as a teaching tool. During a grading period, students may re-do assignments as often as they choose until they get the grade they desire. After a student does an assignment it is graded by the computer and immediately shows the questions they have gotten wrong. They can research the correct answers and re-do the assignment to improve their score. ***The students can retake their assignment as many times as they desire until they get the score they want.*** The more often a student elects to re-do assignments, the better we like it. It means that students are interacting with course content more often.

Grades

As you can see, grades in my class are very fluid. We do this because every student does not learn at the same pace or in the same way. Grades in my classes are based on how much a student is willing to work, not on how much a student knows on a particular test day. I can easily examine student assignments and tutor as needed. The computers make this possible because of the way assignments are graded.

Jupiter is a wonderful program for communicating with parents but since we administer an assignment almost every day and students can continually re-do their assignments. I may have a hundred or more changing grades every day. It is not practical for me to enter grades by hand on a daily basis. My entire day would be consumed with entering grades and I would have no time left for instruction or student remediation. Also, parents could never be sure that the grade they see in Jupiter Grades is the accurate current grade. Therefore, instead of entering a static grade for each assignment we will only enter the grade for each grading period, which is static and does not change.

Parent Communication

We have developed many other ways that parents can monitor student progress in my classes. I have a web site, www.edtechnology.com, through which parents can request a current student grade, updated on a daily basis. They can also use the site to see what we are doing in class. There are lots of tutorials, practice assignments and video's that the students can use to master the subjects we are working on. There is a link on the landing page for our site that parents can use to request the current grade of their son or daughter. A detailed grade report is sent back to the parents on the same day it is requested.

Parent communication is an important part of education. After all, it is YOUR school and I am your public servant. Parents, not educators should have the last word when it comes to the education of their children. With that in mind, I hold daily online office hours at which time parents can have a LIVE meeting with me over the internet to discuss the progress of their son or daughter. We use a program called "Zoom." to communicate directly with parents and students. Zoom allows us to have live meetings. The beauty is that you do not have to come to the school in person. I can share my desktop, show current assignments and grades and discuss any concerns you may have. You can use your personal computer to communicate and there are even apps available that allow you to communicate using your smart phone or tablet. If you do not have a microphone or sound on your computer I can provide you with a free conference call number through which we can chat. Please call me (619 252-9522) set up a conference.

Also, if your son or daughter is sick or absent for an extended period of time I can work with them, live over the internet, so they do not get too far behind.

Web Site

Please visit our web site, at, www.edtechnology.com and click the tab that corresponds to the course your son or daughter is taking. Using this site you will be able to see the assignments that we are working on. We have video's and other resources to help the students succeed in class. Also, from the page you can request a grade print-out that shows each assignment and up-to-date grades. Our grades are updated daily.

In my classes, students can retake assignments as many times as they want in order to get better grades. In reality, it is hard to fail my classes because students can re-do their assignments as often as they need to. I am frequently in class for make-ups, re-do's and tutoring.

Tutoring Schedule

- Every day 6am
- Every lunch hour
- Every Saturday, 8am till noon
- Sometimes at night, 3:30 to 7:30

Grading

Students are required to achieve at least a "C" grade to pass the class. A "D" grade is the same as an "F"

Final Grade

- 6 week progress report = 25% of grade
- 12 week progress report = 25% of grade
- 18 week progress report = 25% of grade
- Final Exam = 25% of grade

Homework

I do not assign homework because it is disruptive to family life and family is more important than schoolwork. Homework is unfair to students involved in extracurricular activities or after school jobs. Often these students do not get home until 8 or 9 at night. The health and family life of students is more important than homework.

Students with Special Needs

Students with learning handicaps or limited English skills are welcome in our class and given the attention and support that will enable them to succeed. I am credentialed to teach all of the Social Studies classes as well as, English, Computers, and Special Education classes. I have a Masters degree in Educational Technology and went through the Masters program at San Diego State for teaching emotionally disturbed students. I look forward to teaching students with problems because of the radiant look on their faces when they succeed.

Classroom Behavior:

- Students are expected to behave in a mature, responsible manner
- Cell phone use only in the center of the room, at desks with the consent of the instructor
- If a student has an emergency call from their parents, they may go outside of the room to communicate.
- If a student is in a quandary about an upcoming test from another class in their schedule, they may ask for permission to study or work on outside assignments and usually I grant permission.
- Students are expected to be in class on time
- Refer to the student handbook for school/district policies

Workstation (computer) Rules

- If students communicate with another student while at the workstations, it is assumed that they are cheating, and they will receive an F grade on the assignment and lowered citizenship grade
- If I see a cell phone while students are at the workstations, I will assume they are using the phone to take screen shots of the assignments and they will receive an F on the assignment and lowered citizenship grade.
- You may refer to the student handbook for the district policies regarding electronic devices. My rules are in compliance with district standards.

Political Experience

You can view the course content on our web page; www.edtechnology.com We do not take sides and neither denigrate or promote any of the political parties. In 1940 I campaigned for FDR by canvassing my neighborhood in Philadelphia. I campaigned again for FDR in 1944 and was inspired by his "Fireside Chats." In 1964 I campaigned for Barry Goldwater and in 1966 I was South Bay Chairman for Ronald Regan. I was chairman of the George Murphy for Senate campaign and later for the S.I.Hayakawa for Senate campaign. Later I supported President Johnson and was lucky enough to be invited to the White House. As food and beverage manager at the Carroll Arms hotel in Washington, DC, (directly across the street from the Senate office buildings,) I got to see the workings of government up close. We were a "hang-out" for many Senators and the famous "Quorum Club" was in our hotel. In 1966 I ran for Chula Vista City Council.

Parents First

I try very hard to present both sides of every issue without bias or preference. Teachers who advocate for one side of an issue are not educating your children, they are indoctrinating them. We encourage students to examine both sides of every issue and then discuss the issues with their parents before making up their minds. In this way parents become partners in the political education of their children. Please feel free to call me on my cell phone at any time, 619 252-9522 I Look forward to hearing from you.

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Bonita Vista High School
Southwestern College
National University