

steven_cruikshank@redlands.k12.ca.us
(909) 389-2500 ext. 32512

Grading Policy

Each of the below categories represents roughly 25% of your grade in my class. I do not weight these categories in Aeries.

Participation

Part of your grade is based on how well you respect the teacher, your classmates, your paraprofessional, the rules and the “flow” of our class, and how well you are present, attentively listen and engage in class. The following standards define the criteria for your participation grade:

1. Making eye contact with the speaker.
2. Listening with the intent to understand.
3. Engaging only in activities related to Latin class, and *not* doing distracting behaviors.
4. Volunteering for various activities and roles.
5. Answering questions, or asking questions that are content-related.
6. Observing the bathroom rules.
7. Bringing an “I want to learn” attitude.

This portion of your grade reflects your overall engagement on a daily basis. I will keep track of your "daily engagement" using a seating chart and assign a "daily engagement" grade every other week. You can find your grades on Aeries.

Daily engagement in class is graded according to a specific set of criteria because data shows that language acquisition cannot happen without sufficient time and engagement in the language. Not meeting the criteria for daily engagement also distracts other students in the class from receiving their required exposure to the language and adversely affects their ability to acquire the language as well. Student behavior therefore becomes a concern for the whole class.

Tests and Quizzes

A portion of your grade is based on your performance on tests and quizzes. Vocabulary and short grammar quizzes will be given on a weekly basis. I am especially big on vocabulary quizzes—short ones but very often. Every two to three chapter, we will have a more comprehensive assessment. A review sheet will be given before each test.

Written Work

Part of your grade is based on written assignments, which will be completed in class and/or assigned as homework. This allows you to demonstrate your effort and learning to me without the high-pressure setting of a test. Most of these assignments are graded on a point system. However, some assignments, such as vocabulary flashcards, may be graded on a "check, plus, or minus" scale: Plus (+) = above average, check = average, minus (-) = needs improvement.

Presentations and Major Projects

The final portion of your grade is based on class presentations and projects. We will complete several projects this year. Each project is different, but you will have the opportunity to create art, participate in group simulations, write a short research paper, prepare a presentation for the class on a cultural topic of your choice, and more. Class time will be given to work on projects, though you can expect to spend some of your homework time completing these projects as well. Projects are especially exciting because they give you an opportunity to work across the curriculum and show off other talents you may have. In the past, students have made videos, murals and posters, brochures, 3D drawings online, multimedia presentations, Wiki pages, written rap lyrics or songs accompanied by guitar, and explored various other avenues of creativity.

Grades are recorded on a block letter grade scale, A, B, C, D, and F.

A-100%-90%

B-89%-80%

C-79%-70%

D-69%-60%

F-59% and lower

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:

ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (EVEN EAR PHONES/BUDS) must be out of sight for the duration of class unless I have specifically given permission to use them. Laptops may be used for school related purposes.

Bathroom Rules:

1. Asking to go to the bathroom must be done at an appropriate transition time or natural pause during class.
2. Students will be given 4 bathroom passes per semester. Any unused pass may be turned in on a test or quiz for extra credit. All passes are non transferable and must be used by the end of each semester.
3. One person goes to the bathroom at a time.
4. Parents will be contacted for excessive use of the bathroom.

Absences

Students who miss a day of class must have the absence excused by their parent or guardian via the attendance office in order to be eligible for make up work. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor and/or check the course website.

Late work and Make-up Work

Work must be turned in at the beginning of the class period in which it is due. Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date, but will be marked off 10% each day it is late. Full credit will be given only in the case of excused absences. The number of days given to complete make up work will be equal to the number of class periods you were absent plus one. For example, if you missed *two days* of class because you had the flu, you will have *three days* to turn in missing assignments. If you have an extended illness, we will work out an acceptable schedule to complete the work. I will try as much as possible to keep the course website up to date with assignments. It is your responsibility to contact me for clarifications, testing arrangements, etc. Aeries will be updated on a weekly basis, so it is easy for you to check your own progress in the class at any time. If there are concerns, contact me as early as possible.

Videos

In addition to our textbook, we will be viewing some supplementary videos including documentaries from PBS, BBC, A&E, History, History International, Discovery, The Learning Channel, National Geographic, Cambridge University Press, and/or other programs that cover pertinent cultural and historical material. Please discuss any concerns with the instructor.

Netiquette

We will be utilizing laptop computers and a SmartBoard to complete some assignments in this course. It is of paramount importance that every student observes the rules of classroom conduct during these times. There will be a *zero* tolerance policy in the case of inappropriate and/or repeated disruptions to the online learning community. Please see the "Acceptable Use Policy" for Student Accounts for further clarifications.

In our online learning environment...

Remember that this is an academic tool and *not* a social network. Keep this in mind when posting in a discussion board, turning in assignments, asking for help in Moodle, etc. Everything that you write is archived, so if you would not want a teacher, school administrator, or your parents to see it, do not write it! Please read the "Acceptable Use Policy" for further guidelines.

Classroom Conduct

I ask that you treat everyone with tolerance, kindness, and respect. Profanity, bullying, cheating, damaging or vandalizing property will not be tolerated. Copying another student's homework or classwork is cheating. Giving your work to another student to copy is cheating. This will result in a zero for the assignment. I will let you know when it is okay to work together on an assignment or activity, which will happen very often.