GRADING GUIDELINES FOR SMALL GROUPS

Total points: 62

Overall, we are trying to simplify grading for the purposes of achieving greater consistency in grading between groups. In the past, students from different groups have received markedly different grades that do not reflect differences in student performance. Hopefully these new guidelines will improve grading consistency.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. If students miss one session that is unexcused and do not make it up, they can receive no more than 52 points. If students miss one session that is unexcused and do make it up, they can receive no more than 58 points. If students miss two or more unexcused sessions, they will fail this course.

Preparation and Engagement:

62 points: Exemplary performance. For example:
- Student is always very well prepared – has read, analyzed and critically applies readings to discussion
- Student engages consistently and constructively in group
- Student’s mastery of subject matter and small group process “stands out” from the norm
- A written statement, signed by both Mentors, should support the assignment of full credit. This statement is in addition to the usual narrative evaluation.

58 points: Excellent performance. This would be the typical grade for a POM student.
- Student generally prepared (has at least read readings and small group session guides before coming to small group)
- Student regular and positive contributor to small group
- Student’s mastery of subject matter and small group process is typical for our (usually) very good UVA student.

52 points: Acceptable but sub-par performance.
- Student generally less well prepared than peers (inconsistently completes readings and other assignments)
- Student less engaged with small group
- Student doesn’t seem to take course content or group process very seriously
- Student’s effort is half-hearted and perfunctory, but student improves with feedback.
48 points: Passing, but barely.

- Student attends all sessions, but is often not prepared.
- Student not engaged with small group – sleeps, doesn’t participate, etc.
- Student doesn’t respond to feedback
- A written statement, signed by both Mentors, should support assignment of this grade. This should include description of efforts to help the student improve performance.