

Questions about Grading Policies for Science with Mr. Cunningham 2011-2012

What are assignments worth?

I try to make each hour you will spend on an assignment worth 10 points. For example, if you spend two class periods (about 2 hours) on a lab, it will be worth about 20 points.

Does class work count more than homework, or is homework more important?

It depends upon the assignment. I grade all assignments out of so many points. The assignments that I design to take more time to complete are worth more.

Are there going to be tests or quizzes?

Yup. These will happen almost every week. The class work and homework that I assign will help you to get ready for them. They will be multiple choice. I will use the information from these quizzes to see how much you understand about what we are learning.

Will we be doing labs?

I hope that everyone will. My regular policy is that students with no missing work are allowed to do extra labs. I figure that if you are responsible enough to keep up with your schoolwork, I should be able to trust you with lab supplies. You will have about a week to do the lab, after which I will need to pack up the supplies and (unfortunately) you can no longer do it, and you would get a zero.

Does each term grade just count as half of my semester grade?

No! Your term grade is just a progress report towards your semester grade. Neither do I take the average of the term grades to determine your semester grade.

Are late assignments accepted?

Yes! You can turn in late almost any assignment that we have done during the year. The exception to this rule is when you were supposed to finish something for class the next day; either you did it on time or not. Every so often there might be a large project due, which will only be accepted on time. Of course, if I understand you have a good reason for turning it in late (medical problems, etc.), you will not be penalized. I'm a pretty reasonable guy.

If I miss school, do I have to make up the work?

For almost all assignments, yes. I'll give you a bit of extra time to get caught up, but I still expect the work to be done. It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed and get the work from me, or download it from my website.

Can assignments be improved for a better grade?

Yes! You may make corrections on almost any assignment to try and get a better grade. My aim is to reward you for your effort at mastering the subject, not just your first attempt. This policy applies to almost any assignment you get in science. You may improve an assignment as many times as you like. To improve assignments, you should do these things:

- talk with me to find out how to fix it (during class time or during tutorial time)
- correct the assignment by writing your improved answers on the page

What if an assignment is lost before it is corrected?

Hopefully, this will not happen. I have students keep all corrected work in the room in a folder, and they should only take one piece home at a time to improve it. If you lose it, you would have to redo the whole assignment. Extra copies are available on-line or in file cabinets in the room.

Can I ask questions on e-mail?

Absolutely. I can be reached at askmrc@earthlink.net and I'll answer you as soon as I can.