

## **A. DEFINITION OF LETTER GRADES**

The following describes the level of performance for each letter grade designation. Grades may be modified by plus (+) or minus (-).

*Sound techniques of scholarship include accuracy, clarity, precision, sensitivity to implications and competing points of view, the ability to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant, and effective use of language. An instructor may identify additional characteristics relevant in a particular discipline.*

**A grade of A** indicates exceptional *superior* scholastic performance, as follows:

- ~~▪ A meeting of the stated requirements for the course in preparation, outside reading, and class participation.~~
- Distinctive understanding of course material ~~by presenting evidence of~~ *as demonstrated by* the ability to analyze critically and synthesize creatively.
- Sound techniques of scholarship in all projects.
- Creativity, imagination, sound judgment, and intellectual curiosity in relating the course material to other areas of intellectual investigation.

**A grade of B** indicates superior *good* scholastic performance, as follows:

- ~~▪ A meeting of the stated requirements for the course in preparation, outside reading, and class participation.~~
- ~~Better than average~~ *Broad* understanding of course material ~~by presenting as evidenced of by the~~ ability to produce significant *make* generalizations and draw valid implications.
- Understanding of techniques of scholarship ~~in all projects.~~
- Sustained interest and exhibition of the ability to communicate the ideas and concepts which are part of the subject matter of the course.

**A grade of C** indicates good *acceptable* scholastic performance, as follows:

- ~~▪ A meeting of the stated requirements for the course in preparation, outside reading, and class participation.~~
- Show satisfactory understanding of course material as shown in committing few errors in fact and judgment when discussing the material.
- Indication of some competence in the techniques of scholarship.
- Exhibition of interest in the subject matter and of capacity in understanding the concepts and ideas which are part of the subject matter of the course.

**A grade of D** indicates poor *deficient* scholastic performance, as follows:

- ~~▪ A meeting of the stated requirements for the course in preparation, outside reading, and class participation.~~

- Inferior understanding of course material as evidenced by inability to recapitulate facts or make sound judgments.
- Only occasional *minimal* use of techniques of scholarship.
- Knowledge of the essential concepts and ideas ~~that are a part of the subject material of the course~~, but *lacking breadth of knowledge and minimal* interest in the subject matter.

**A grade of F**, when assigned by the instructor, indicates unacceptable scholastic performance, as follows:

- ~~Negligence of~~ *Fails to meet* the standards and requirements of the course *in preparation, outside reading, and class participation*.
- Inadequate understanding of the course material as shown in an excessive number of errors in fact and judgment when discussing the material.
- Inability to use ~~sound~~ techniques of scholarship.
- Inability to comprehend the concepts and ideas which are part of the subject matter of the course.

Since these are general guidelines, the individual instructor should make an effort to define in the syllabus the standards as they apply to the course being conducted. It might be also stressed that many innovative techniques are available as alternatives to the most common method of evaluation (self-evaluation, class evaluation, project, etc.).