

A Note on Calculation of Blackboard Postings and Class Participation

Here is the way I will count your blackboard postings in calculating your class participation grade:

These postings (plus other forms of participation noted in syllabus) constitute 5% of your grade. I will look at the number and the content of your substantial postings (which I will read all along as you put them up). Each posting to be counted should be approximately 100 words long (a full paragraph). The minimum of five will be considered a "C." Substantial postings beyond this number will raise your grade incrementally for this part of the course requirement. Even the short postings (beyond the substantial ones) can only help your grade here, so feel free to post any response, no matter how brief.

I will calibrate the credit for the postings in this way, given the above statement that the minimum of five postings will count as a C.

15 or more postings	100 (A+)
10-15 postings	95 (A)
9 postings	90 (A-)
8 postings	85 (B)
7 postings	80 (B-)
6 postings	78 (C+)
5 postings	75 (C)
4 postings	70 (C-)
3 postings	68 (D+)
2 postings	65 (D)
1 posting	60 (D)
0 postings	0-59 (F)

The postings will provide the foundation of your overall class participation grade. I will use other things such as your participation in class discussion to boost your grade in cases when you are right on the borderline. Substantial postings can only have a positive impact on your grade, and I will read each of your postings carefully. This will provide a subjective component of your class participation grade that I will use in a positive way only to help you.

Timeline for completing your postings:

1. The postings for questions on *Winesburg, Ohio* and *The Great Gatsby* should be posted by midnight on Sunday the 22nd of September (the Sunday before the hour test on those works—Hour Test #1)
2. The postings for questions on *The Professor's House*, *The Sun Also Rises*, and *Cane* should be posted by midnight on Sunday the 3rd of November (the Sunday before the hour test on those works—Hour Test #2)
3. The postings for "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," *The Waste Land*, and *The Sound and the Fury* should be posted by midnight on Sunday, December 8th—the Sunday before Hour Test #3 (which is the Sunday before our final exam period, when you will turn in your final take-home essay and take Hour Test #3)