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Why Should I Deserve an “A” Mark on EAC150?

It was a late and rainy afternoon during the planting season of rice in our paddy fields when I had a memorable conversation with my late father. He was then in the middle of our rice paddy holding a plow pulled by our buffalo exerting all its remaining strength that day while I was a meter away from him distributing the rice seedlings to be planted. I was told by him, “Son, better be good at school in order not to work in this muddy field again”. These words of my old man struck me and gave me a sense of realization that I need to strive harder at school. He wanted a better life for me, a better field to explore; not our muddy fields. I have carried these words in my mind until today when I am pursuing my second diploma in another field and, for the first time, outside my home country. It still echoes in my ears most of the time whenever I am confronted with challenging workloads from school. It is a constant reminder for me not to give up studying. It gives me a continuous supply of stamina to keep going and work harder until I reach the grade that I know I deserve for any of my courses.

So what is the grade that I think I deserve for EAC150? I deserve the best grade, an “A”, that my professor can give to any of his students but not entirely based on completed workshops or exercises done inside the classroom but also on account of other criteria. I may be behind on points to get this grade based on my paper evaluations but other factors such as enthusiasm, commitment and the hard work that I put in to this course should be taken into consideration. Different standards of professors in giving marks can interfere also in getting the grade that I know I deserve for this course.

I have learned more concepts than what my papers show during evaluations. More practice is needed to perfect all the elements being taught in this course considering that English is not my native language. An essay of 1 or 2 with limited time allotted to create and not to mention the other workloads on my other courses cannot adequately evaluate what I have gained in this course. Writing excellent essays is like theories or researches of some scientists that were not perfected in several experiments only but rather being polished over decades and countless trials. It may be true that I should get my grade based on the outcome of my performance while at school as this was written in the course description but I think the real score is much higher when you can show that you are able to apply all these concepts that you have learned independently outside the classroom later on.

I put in a lot of hard work to understand the subject matter being taught even though the mode of instruction is not in my native language which adds an extra level of difficulty for me and I should be entitled to additional points for that. Regardless of this language complexity, I completed all requirements needed in this course before the deadline even though it is tormenting to deal with and causes me to be awake late for several nights. I never skipped classes even when sometimes I feel mentally incapacitated to absorb all the concepts being discussed. I spent more hours in this course compared to my other courses in this semester trying to get the grade that I know I deserve. I consulted the learning center for advice several times on how to tackle my issues in this course which they gladly provided. I read all the texts/readings every week which help me to expand my vocabulary and pick up some techniques in writing which help me prepare for any upcoming written evaluation. I supplemented the discussion in class by reading all the course materials posted online. With this effort that I am making and the enthusiasm that I am showing in this course, I should get a grade better than what my written evaluation is reflecting.

Grade is not a commodity to be negotiated with the professor. However, most of the papers submitted for evaluation to accumulate our grades are not always a true or false and multiple choice type of questions which can be determined easily if its right or wrong. A huge part that accounts for our grade comes from the essays that we wrote and usually marks are given based on the personal judgement and standard of the professor. I am convinced that every professor is giving marks fairly in all cases but my point is that if one professor is highly educated and with a high level of expertise on the course or in his field, we might say that his standard and expectation from his students may be higher also. If he is giving a grade of “B” or “B+” to any of his students, another professor may be giving an “A” grade instead. Furthermore, international students including myself may suffer an immediate loss of points if the professor just bases an essay on his own standards as we are 1 or 2 levels down on language proficiency compared to native speakers. This may give him the impression that we have not fully understood the course material when in fact it is just a language issue. Different standards of professors teaching the same course can adversely affect the outcome of my grade that I know I deserve.

As an international student, I am committed to learn the language for me to pass any of my courses especially EAC150 as this is the only approach in delivering the course. However, professors ought to be lenient in some way and should not completely base our grades only on the results of our papers submitted for evaluations but should also give some additional points for other factors. I might be dreaming the impossible when I said at first that I deserve an “A” grade on this course but taking into account external factors like the hard work and enthusiasm that I put in to this course to complete all the requirements is more than enough for me to mark myself as such. Such dedication and making sure that I absorb all the concepts taught in this course may not probably show through in all of my test paper results but this tremendous effort from my side is what I believe entitles me for significant additional points for my grade. So why do I think I deserve an “A” grade on this course? It’s because not only have I completed all the requirements on time but also I have demonstrated the extra factors of hard work, total commitment, enthusiasm and a desire to learn.