

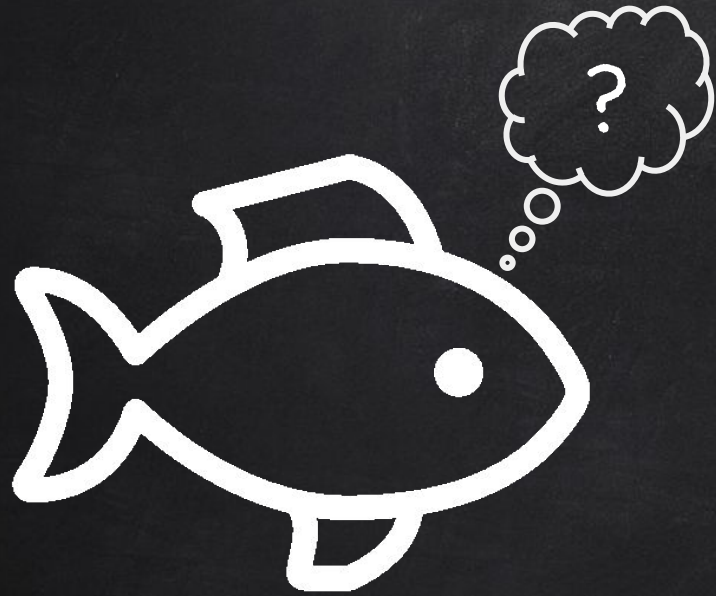


CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN-GRADE: INSTRUCTIONAL CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

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SOCIETY
NEEDS
GRADES...



...LIKE A FISH NEEDS A BICYCLE

HOW DOES CYOG WORK?

There's one rule:

You must come see me at the end of the semester, have a conversation with me, and tell me what grade you would like for me to report to the registrar.

- ⚙ NO required tests
- ⚙ NO required quizzes
- ⚙ NO required homework
- ⚙ NO required attendance
- ⚙ NO required essays
- ⚙ NO required labs

HOW DO YOU GET AWAY WITH THAT?!?

1.

My university requires
me to turn in a grade for
each student

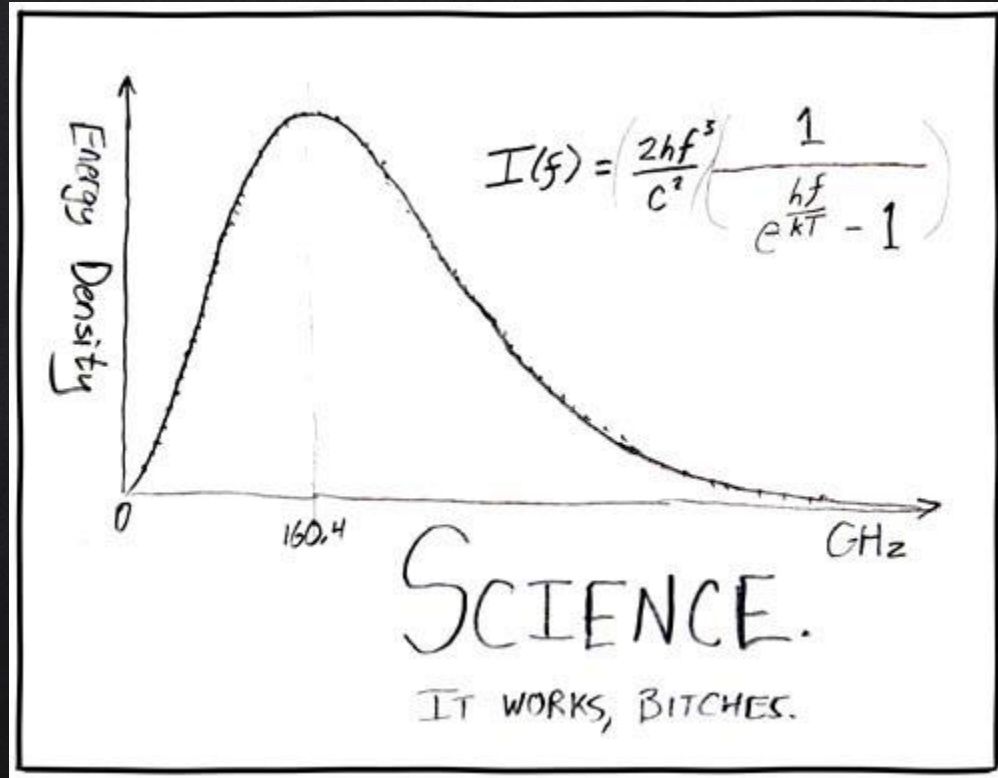
2.

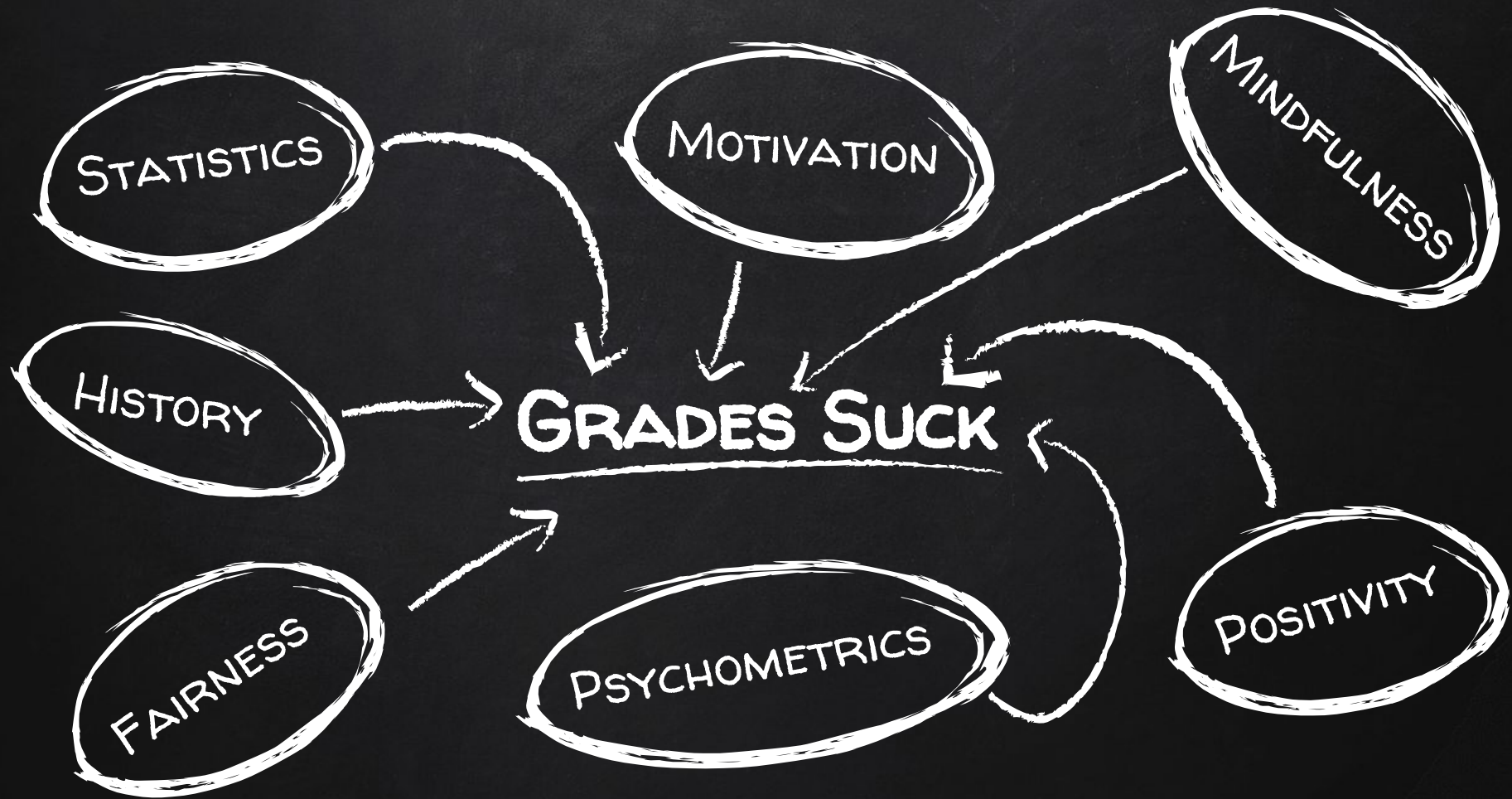
There's only one rule:
I have to use the same
procedure to grade all
students

3.

Nobody really ever asks
you to justify how you
grade, but even if they
did, it wouldn't be a
problem...

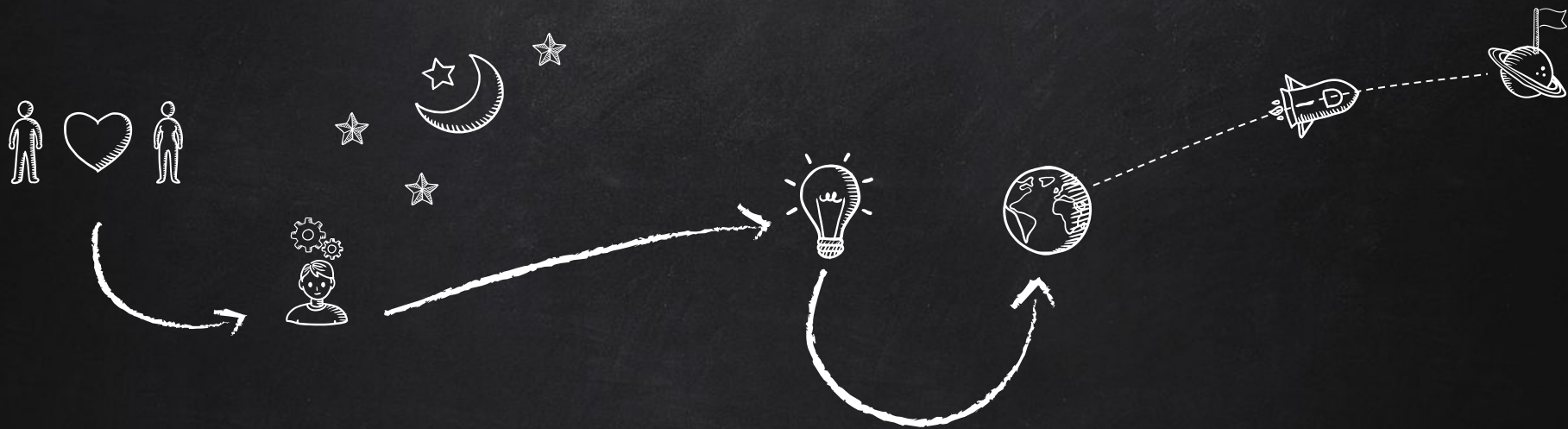
...BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, SCIENCE.







*You keep talking about grades...
I do not think they mean
what you think they mean.*



STORIES...



GRAHAM

- Taught himself iOS app development
- Before we were even teaching it
- Before I knew how
- In 2010
- To help his girlfriend with anorexia



WARRIOR WOMEN

“ WE NEED SOMEONE TO
BEAT. IF WE DON'T HAVE
SOMEONE OR SOMETHING TO
COMPETE AGAINST, IT'S JUST
NOT THAT MUCH FUN...”



The background of the entire image is a collage of US dollar bills, primarily \$100 bills, arranged in a circular pattern around a central dark heart shape. The bills are slightly faded and overlapping, creating a textured, money-themed background.

A LOVE \$TORY

- Student: You are the most interesting and intriguing professor I've ever had, and I'm never coming to your class again.
- Me: That doesn't make sense. If this is really the best course you've ever had, why aren't you bending over backwards to make it a priority??
- Student: Well, I want to get this internship this summer that will really help set me up for getting a job in my chosen field (business), and to do that, I really need to do well in these three other courses. By not coming to your class, I can focus on these other classes, which are honestly less interesting to me, and have the best chance of getting the internship.

Me: Oh.

MERGE

CALL^{OF}**DUTY**
ADVANCED WARFARE





ONE SIZE
CAN NEVER
FIT ALL

“As if taking 19 credit hours in one semester isn’t hard enough, add being pregnant, dealing with lifestyle changes that accompanied gestational diabetes, suffering from a heart condition and essentially non-stop sickness to the mix. I have had no choice but to continue on and do my best in order to create the best life I can for my son and I after graduation....

I cannot thank you enough for your support, acceptance, and understanding throughout the semester. You are one of the few who has not pretended I did not exist because my pregnancy made them uncomfortable or inconvenienced them. You did not make me feel like I was going to fail because I could not complete the semester like the average student. I even had a professor ignore all my emails and avoided me like the plague pretty much all semester.”

CLOSING THOUGHTS...

- ⚙️ One-size-fits-all is a myth.
- ⚙️ Classrooms should be safe spaces to take risks.
- ⚙️ You still need structure. Most students are *not* self-directed.
- ⚙️ You never have to have a conversation about points ever again.
- ⚙️ Finding a subject is “not for me” is a win and shouldn't be punished.



THANKS!

Questions?

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