How to get a good Grade

1. There 1000 points on all of the Java Homework (JH) assignments + Tests ... turn them in on time
2. Watch ALL of the required videos (Actively) before doing the assignments/Tests. Instead of watching the videos passively (like a TV show), engage your brain while watching the video. You can do this by taking notes. You can also do this by doing the program at the same time in Eclipse that is being created in the video.
3. Practice is essential to learning Java ... this is the purpose of the JH assignments. The concepts are unlikely to click if you don't practice the concepts covered.
4. If you are struggling with the JH assignments , you can get help: See the Blackboard section on "Getting Help" for the available options
5. Some of you have enough discipline that staying on track and will find that doing the JH assignments will be sufficient to mastering the material. If this is you, then just do the "Assignments & Tests" listed in blackboard.
6. Previously, I have found that some students have found the JH assignments too challenging and would benefit from some additional simple practice exercises before tackling the JH assignments. So I have created some optional Practice options for you. In order to give you an incentive to doing the extra practice, I have created the "Practice_Bribe_System".

Practice_Bribe System

- Showing up to the Mixed Mode (MM) section is a good way to stay on track and get help. Note this is available to Distance Learning (DL) students who need this assistance.
- Some students find that the JH assignments are quite challenging. Sometimes these students will find that simpler practice problems prepare them to take on the JH challenges. For those students who need the simpler additional practice, we have created additional Practice assignments. The following link contains the list of all of the practice problems:
- List of additional simple proctice problems: [Index Of Practice Problems](). You will also find that for many of the JH assignments, you will see a link to the Practice problems you can do to prepare for the assignment that you need to do.
- The procedure for submitting your Practice problems will be announced at the beginning of the semester.
- In order to encourage you to show up to an MM section and to do the Practice Problems I plan to Bribe you according to the Practice Bribe_System.

How does this affect your Effective Grade?

Total_Practice_Points = 190

15 Week Class:

MM_Attendance_Points = 10 points/week * 14 weeks = 140 (starts on week 2)

12 Week Class:

MM_Attendance_Points = 12 points/week * 11 weeks = 132 (starts on week 2)

The remaining calculations are based on a 15 week class (12 week class would be similar but there are slightly less MM Attendance Points)

Max_Practice_Bribe = Total_Practice_Points + MM_Attendance_Points = 190 + 140 = 330

Let Earned_Bribe be the number of points you earned above out Max_Practice_Bribe.

There are 1000 points on all of the JH assignments + Tests.

Let G = your score on JH assignments + Tests

Your Effective Grade for the class (EG) will be:

EG = Earned_Bribe + G * (1 - 0.31 * Earned_Bribe/Max_Practice_Bribe)

The best way to explain this is to describe 3 scenarios:

1. If you never show up to an MM section and you never do any practice problems and achieve a grade of G, then your effective grade will be G.
2. If you show up to every MM section and do all of the practice problems, it should improve your performance. Additionally, your Effective Grade will be a little better than 100% on 30% of your grade. The remaining 70% of your grade will be a little better than the percentage that you achieved (G) in JH assignments and tests.
3. If you show up some of the time to MM sections and do some of the practice problems then your Effective grade wil be prorated based on how much you actually participated in the MM_Bribe_System.

Table that shows the result of the above formula:

Grade(G)		0	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	325	330
	1000	1000	1002	1004	1007	1009	1011	1013	1015	1018	1020	1022	1024	1026	1029	1029
	950	950	953	957	960	963	967	970	973	977	980	983	987	990	993	994
	900	900	904	909	913	918	922	927	931	936	940	945	949	954	958	959
	850	850	856	861	867	873	878	884	889	895	901	906	912	918	923	924
	800	800	807	814	820	827	834	841	847	854	861	868	874	881	888	889
	750	750	758	766	774	782	790	797	805	813	821	829	837	845	853	854
	700	700	709	718	727	736	745	754	763	772	781	790	799	809	818	819
	650	650	660	670	681	691	701	711	721	731	742	752	762	772	782	784
	600	600	611	623	634	645	657	668	679	691	702	713	725	736	747	749
	550	550	562	575	587	600	612	625	637	650	662	675	687	700	712	715
	500	500	514	527	541	554	568	582	595	609	622	636	650	663	677	680
	450	450	465	479	494	509	524	538	553	568	583	597	612	627	642	645
	400	400	416	432	448	464	479	495	511	527	543	559	575	591	606	610
	350	350	367	384	401	418	435	452	469	486	503	520	537	554	571	575

Earned Bribe