This is a studio class, and as such, grading emphasis will be placed on the artifacts you submit in response to assignment and project briefs. However, the class will include a reasonable discussion of theory, communicated through readings, viewings, lectures and in class discussion. Your participation in these activities, even though they do not directly result in a tangible submission, will be a significant part of your final grade.

All assignments, projects and participation activities will be given numeric scores that will be summed and averaged according to the weightings given below to determine your final class grade.

**Unless specifically indicated otherwise in the assignment or project brief, all work is due at 9 am on the due date.**

Your submission must be posted to Coursekit AND brought to class by this deadline. Late submissions will receive no credit.

**1. Assignments (30% of Grade)**

There will be 4 week long, individual assignments in this class. These assignments are each intended to teach a particular aspect of system design.

**2. Projects (50% of grade)**

There will be 2 multi-week projects in this class, one will be an individual project and the other will be done as a team project. These projects are intended to challenge you to synthesize a variety of system design skills and concepts. For the team project, all team members will receive the same grade.

**3. Class Participation and Understanding of Readings & Viewings (20% of grade)**

Students will be expected to participate actively in every class, collaborate with their peers, and engage with material discussed and designed in class. There will be readings from assigned texts, as well as materials and videos posted to Coursekit. These readings and viewings must be completed before the class in which they will be meaningfully discussed (**9 AM Friday).** There will not be time in class to catch up on this reading.

**Grading Criteria**

All submissions and class participation will be graded on a 5 point scale that will be translated into a final letter grade for the course as follows:

* 4 = A
* 3 = B
* 2 = C
* 1 = D
* 0 = F

While all grading necessarily contains some degree of subjectivity, the instructor’s intention is to make the process as transparent as possible. Therefore, all briefs will include a detailed evaluation rubric defining the qualities and criteria that will be used to assign numeric ratings.

The rubric to be used for evaluating the class participation score will be as follows:

| **Quality** | **Poor (1)** | **Good (2 - 3)** | **Excellent (4)** | **Weight (%)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Preparation | Student has not prepared the material or prepared to the most cursory degree | Student has reviewed the assigned material and made a reasonable effort to synthesize it | Student demonstrates a mastery of the assigned material, even linking it to other related work from previous experience | 30% |
| Participation | Student does not engage the discussion or contribute in any meaningful way | Student clearly follows the discussion, reacts to the contributions of others and offers, at times, his or her point of view | Student fully engages the discussion while being sensitive to the point of view of others, including working to bring those less outgoing into the discussion | 30% |
| Attitude | Student is sullen, sarcastic or otherwise negative towards the activity | Student is open and positive towards the activity, and demonstrates a willingness to engage even out his or her natural comfort zone | Student is enthusiastic and supportive to the discussion at all times, and works to maintain a high level energy in the activity | 40% |