Grades and Leveling Up

- There are seven main point-earning activities in this course. Every activity except attendance is entirely optional. If you attend less than 50% of the classes, you **cannot** pass the class.
- Earning an A requires being present for the majority of class meetings
- Some activities are low stakes and some are linked to an evaluative assessment of your work
- There are more opportunities to earn points in a category than will actually earn you points. That is to say, although there will be 5 short essays, and each essay is worth 500 points, you can only earn 2,000 points in that category (you can only receive points from 4 of 5 essays). If you would like to do all 5 essays, though, you can drop your lowest score.
- There are also badges! A raw grade number doesn't recognize all of your accomplishments in a class. You can earn badges for accomplishments such as exceptional performance on an assignment as well as skills such as being an excellent presenter, showing leadership in your team. GradeCraft has a list of all the possible badges.
- If you complete every assignment (not including the project) and receive full points on everything, you would have 9475 points (8000 earns you an A). This is *designed* with the assumption that you will pick and choose – **you should not plan to do everything**!
- Details of each category are available on the next pages.

Activity	Points each	Number of chances to earn points	Possible Points (capped)
Attendance	5pts/day	28 days	125
In-class quizzes	50 possible pts/quiz	Minimum of 15 quizzes	550
At-home quizzes	50 possible pts/quiz	Minimum of 15 quizzes	550
Vocabulary mnemonics	25 pts each	10 word max	250
Short essays	500 pts each	5 short essays	2000
Weekly assignments	100 pts each	15-25 assignments	1800
Exams	1000 pts each	4 exams	4000
Exam corrections	*50 pts/exam*	*4 exams*	*200*
Project	Requires communication with Dr. Pistone by 2/15 if you plan to do this option		2000

GradeCraft is a fairly new platform that was designed to support courses organized like this one. It allows you to see where you are in the course and to make predictions about your final grade based on different levels of performance. Because this is new and different, we will probably find things that don't work out perfectly. Please trust that we'll have multiple places where your points are stored, so if something gets wonky in GradeCraft, we will make it right. It may just require a little patience on your part!