

ATL Lightning Talk

Undoing Grades: A URI Experiment

April 8, 2022.



**ECN/GWS386: Economics of
Race, Gender, & Class**

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This semester, I did away with conventional grading #ungrading

Reason 1

For greater equity in evaluating knowledge/skills *gained*, as opposed to knowledge/skills students come in with.



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Reason 2

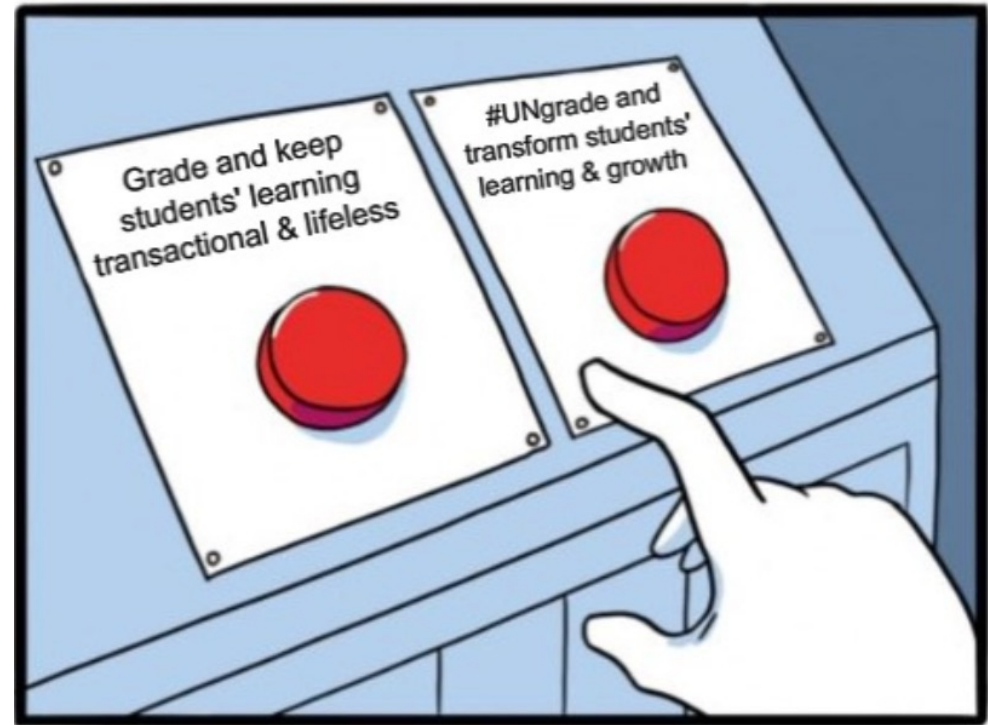
Towards promoting metacognition,
a growth mindset,
and ultimately, student empowerment.



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Reason 3

For genuinely collaborative learning and the continuation of learning beyond a grade!



Undoing grades: the process

Individual goal-
setting (start of
semester)



Multiple-
chance
submissions

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Suggested
due dates

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Actionable
feedback

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Undoing grades: the process

Weekly self-
evaluations

Individual goal-
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Undoing grades: the process

Process
Letters

Weekly self-
evaluations

Individual goal-
setting (start of
semester)



Suggested
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Actionable
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Multiple-
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submissions

Assignment
portfolio

Undoing grades: the process

Process
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Individual goal-
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Undoing grades: the process

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Assignment
portfolio

Process
Letters

Weekly self-
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Final
interview

Individual goal-
setting (start of
semester)



Students' thoughts thus far

One of the goals I personally set was to be more "proactive in my education" meaning that I wanted to focus less on grades and other quantitative measurements and put more **value on the actual learning** and comprehension of the material. I think the grading system in this class has helped me to start achieving this goal since it has taught me to **detach value from traditional number/letter grades and, instead, value qualitative feedback** that helps me to gain a better understanding....

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I am also working on getting over my writing anxiety as well and have gotten a lot better I like the structure of this course and think that it **pushes students to try their hardest** and to reflect on those efforts which is very important to **improve overall learning**, not just within this course.

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I set out to meet this goal by telling myself not to worry about how long an assignment takes me and instead to **focus on getting something out of it**. While I admittedly still rush to finish my work at times when my workload is heavier, I feel like I have been able to **get much more out of the readings** in this class than I have in previous classes.

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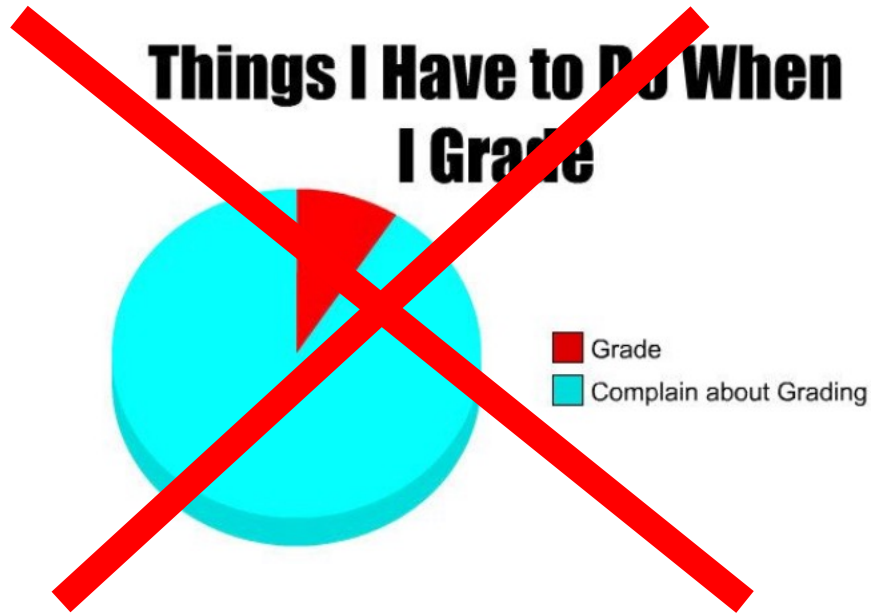
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At the beginning of this course, I felt mildly overwhelmed by the thought of our proposed grading system, however I have found that the **self evaluation allows me to be honest with myself** and put in better effort towards mastery of our course content.



Take-away for today ...



- Collaboration & cooperative learning
- Empowerment & metacognition
- Equity in grading and assessment

Undo grades!