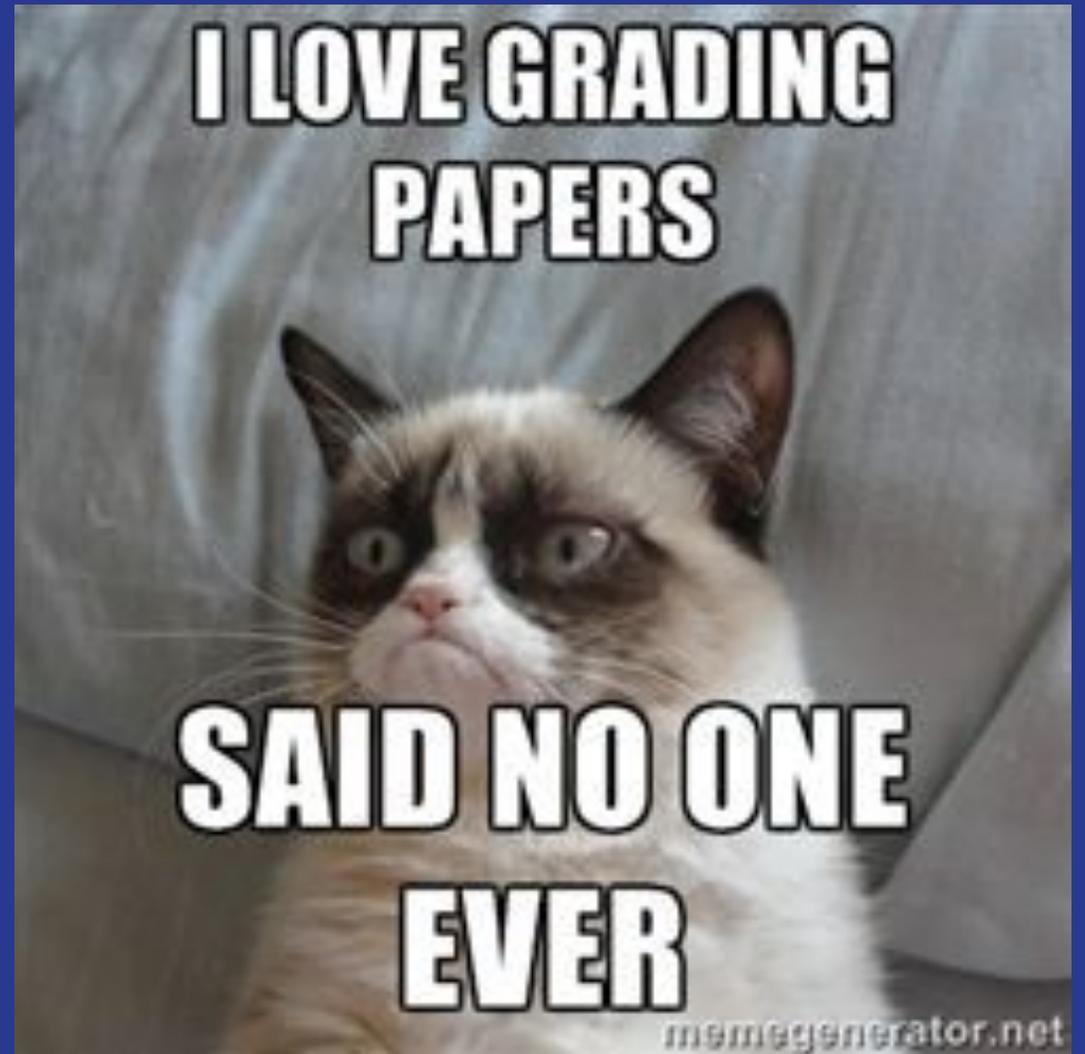# Specifications Grading

The secret to making grading tolerable (or even enjoyable)

Grading Hairballs

Do students actually read feedback?

Were there opportunities for students to apply feedback to enhance learning?

What does it mean to earn an A?

How do you convince students that there is value in lower order thinking goal oriented assignments?

Describe the process of development from the time of conception to early adolescence
•Smart book Assignment

Identify the major theories associated with early and adolescent development
•Smart Book Assignment •Module Worksheets

Recognize the influence the environment and culture can have on development
•Smart book Assignment •Module Worksheets •Case Study

Apply theories to help explain behaviors and make predictions about future behavior
•Case Study Meetings •Book Club

Evaluate the efficacy of different theories in helping explain development
•Case Study •Book Club

Each assignment is graded on a pass/fail basis. Students are given 3 Ram Tokens to use for either resubmissions or a 48 hour extension. Students who have 2 tokens left at the end of the semester will earn a + grade. Students who have used all of their Ram Tokens will be reduced to a - grade.

To earn a D in the course
- Complete weekly Smart Book Assignment
- Devote between 3-4 hours each week

To earn a C in the course
- Everything in D plus
- Complete all Module Notes
- Devote 4-6 hourser per week

To earn a B in the course
- Everything in C plus
- Complete 3 Case Study Applications
- Devote 5-7 hours per week

To earn an A in the course
- Everything in B plus
- Participate in the HDF 200 Book Club
- Devote 8 or more hours per week

Week 5 Pause: No new work assigned. Students can catch up and move their compass toward earning their desired grade

What do the students think?

The staircase-approach to grading was interesting and at first, I did not care for it, but further in the semester, I came to appreciate it. Since this was an asynchronous class, knowing exactly what was expected of me to get the grade I wanted was very helpful.

Specs grading made me more motivated to complete the coursework then in other courses.

I loved everything about this grading system! I felt empowered knowing that I could control my own grade, and if I happened to miss an assignment, I had the opportunity to make it up.

I liked that the course was not test heavy. I feel like I have retained the information better because I was given assignments to apply and think critically about what I learned instead of cramming a bunch of information and having to memorize for a test. I liked the Ram Tokens because it shows that the prof. understands that life happens and we might need an extension.