

## **Self-Assessment: Introduction**

### **What is a self-evaluation or self-assessment?**

A self-evaluation or self-assessment is a way for you to directly participate in the structure of your own learning. I suggest thinking of self-evaluations as an opportunity to reflect on your own educational goals and the progress that you have made, rather than viewing them as merely an assignment, or busy work to be completed. In this self-evaluation, I ask you to develop goals for this class, and reflect on what you would like to learn. Please feel free to take your time in thinking about these topics. I recognize that for much, if not all of your educational career, your learning has been dictated to you from above (“You will learn x, y, and z by completing a, b and c.”) and it can be strange to think about generating your own learning.

When filling out the self-evaluation, be as detailed as you like. It is fine to be very honest; you aren’t going to hurt my feelings by saying that you took this class because you need it to graduate and you don’t have any interest in the material. I understand the pressures of higher education! However, I do hope that by the end of the course I can change your mind a bit, and you leave thinking that some of it, at least, was interesting!

Even if you don’t have specific thoughts about the course material, I would still like you to think about and develop some goals for the course, independent from specific bureaucratic requirement. “I would like to get an A” is all well and good, but what does getting an A mean for you? What would you like to do or learn on the pathway to that A? Is there something that you are curious about? Any reason you took this class instead of any of your other options?

When you have completed the self-assessment, please upload or type it into to the assignment on Canvas, but also please keep a copy for yourself. One of the advantages of this approach is you have the ability to look back across this course and see how far you have come.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have about this, or anything else in this course!

***IMPORTANT NOTE:***

*This is an experimental way to teach a class, and it may not be the way you are used to.*

*Because of this I would like to collect your responses to these self-assessments for use in a project about "ungrading" (the grading philosophy we are using in this class) in political theory classes. I will anonymize the responses, but may use direct quotations from your responses.*

*This is OPT-IN ONLY. If you would like to allow me to use your responses for a future project, please clearly answer "Yes." to the first question. If you do not answer, or do not clearly answer I will not use your responses. I will ask this question on every response, and you can change your mind at any time.*

*This will not impact your grade or your performance in the class. If you do not feel comfortable with this, I fully understand, and please feel free to opt-out.*

*If you have any questions about this, please feel free to email me, or ask in our Coffee Chat sessions.*

#### **Self-Assessment Questions:**

- May I use your anonymized responses in this self-evaluation for a future project about ungrading in political theory classes?
- Why did you take this class?
- What would you like to get out of this class? What are your goals for this class?
- What do you hope to learn from this class?
- What do you think is a reasonable amount of work to do in order to succeed in this class?
- Out of the topics we are going to discuss, which one do you find yourself most excited to learn about?
- How do you feel about the style of grading we are using in this class?
- What are your first impressions about the class?
- Is there anything else that I should know about you? Anything at all! Pets, hobbies, hopes and dreams...
- Do you have any other questions?

## **Self-Assessment Week 2:**

- May I use your anonymized responses in this self-evaluation for a future project about ungrading in political theory classes?
- How have you worked to meet your goals for the class this week?
- Are you happy with the work you did this week?
- How would you describe your participation in the class and discussion this week?
- What did you learn this week?
- What would you like to know more about?
- What are you thinking of doing for your final paper/final project?
- Any other questions or concerns?



### **Self-Assessment Week 3**

- May I use your anonymized responses in this self-evaluation for a future project about ungrading in political theory classes?
- How have you worked to meet your goals for the class this week?
- Are you happy with the of work you did this week?
- How would you describe your participation in the class and discussion this week?
- What did you learn this week?
- What would you like to know more about?
- What extra material are you thinking of using for your final paper/project?
- Do you have any other questions?

## Self-Assessment 4

- May I use your anonymized responses in this self-evaluation for a future project about ungrading in political theory classes?
- How have you worked to meet your goals for the class this week?
- Are you happy with the work you did this week?
- How would you describe your participation in the class and discussion this week?
- What did you learn this week?
- What would you like to know more about?
- How would you describe your progress on your final paper/project?
- Do you have any other questions?

### **Self-Assessment Week 5:**

- May I use your anonymized responses in this self-evaluation for a future project about ungrading in political theory classes?
- How have you worked to meet your goals for the class this week?
- Are you happy with the work you did this week?
- How would you describe your participation in the class this week?
- What did you learn this week?
- What would you like to know more about?
- How did your final paper go? How are you feeling about it?
- Any other questions or concerns?

### **Final Self-Evaluation:**

- May I use your anonymized responses in this self-evaluation for a future project about ungrading in political theory classes?
  - Did you meet your goals for the class?
  - How did your final paper/project go? Are you happy with the result?
  - What would you like to change, or improve upon with your final paper/project?
  - What did you learn when completing the final project?
  - In comparison with other upper-division work you have completed, is this project better, worse or the same?
  - How would you describe your participation/activity in discussion section?
  - What grade do you think you should get in this class? Why? Please be specific. Please take into account the work you did for the lecture portion of this class, your participation in discussion section and your final project as well as the feedback you have received from both the instructor and the TA.
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- How do you feel about the grading system used in this class?
  - How do you feel about the general way this class operated?
  - Would you change anything about how the class was graded?
  - Was this class more or less stressful than other, similar classes you have taken?
  - Is there anything else you would like me to know?

Thanks for being in this class!