

Student Name: ALAN BLANCHARD

Course: RHETORIC & TECHNOLOGY

Term: FALL 2022

Please carefully read the course syllabus, the course policies, ask questions about the course and assignments. Then make a copy of this document for yourself, fill it out completely, and print and turn in no later than the third class meeting. (Learn more about contract grading here: <https://wac.colostate.edu/books/perspectives/labor/>)

Your goal (initial on the line by your choice):

AB I am working toward an A for this class.

 I am working toward a B for this class.

A standard contract for this class:

- Participation = 25% of your final grade
 - Completion of weekly readings with collaborative notes
 - Participation in electronic and in-class discussions
 - Practice comprehensive examinations
- Presentations = 25% of your final grade
 - Class Readings (Lead discussion one or two nights)
 - Connections (finding and sharing existing scholarship of a key scholar or topic)
 - Pending Research (frequent in-class oral updates on your individual research project)
- Individualized Research Project = 25% of your final grade
 - Contract (due by the 8th week of class) (Due 11 October)
 - Proposal (Due 25 October)
 - Annotated Bibliography
 - Essay, journal article, or other extensive scholarly product
- Portfolio = 25% of your final grade (see Course Policies for portfolio grading criteria)
 - Practice comprehensives essay responses
 - Research Project
 - Research Presentation

Participation--choose among the following options (initial on the lines by your choices):

AB I plan to do the following to earn my participation points

AB I will complete at least 210 minutes of reading each week with reading annotations

AB I will complete at least 4 (number) or more posts a week in our Canvas Discussions

 I will complete at least or more 250 words-a-day a week

 I will complete or more glossary definitions each week

AB I will complete 5 or more concept in 60 videos

 I will complete or more

 I will complete or more

 I will complete or more

 I agree to track my participation points (daily or weekly: choose one) in my writing process log/ participation point tracker.

Portfolio--choose one of the following options (initial on the line by your choices):

I expect to complete the following for my portfolio artifacts:

AB I will complete a book review.

 I will complete a journal review.

 I will complete an interview with a scholar in the field (can do more than one).

 I will complete an annotated bibliography for publication.

 I will complete a conference proposal or conference presentation.

Students must achieve a proficiency level of at least C- in the course in order to receive credit toward the English major. Graduate students must maintain a B average to remain in good academic standing.

Blank Contract Grade form (updated 8-9-2022)

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Explain how you will accomplish what you have set out to do:

For participation, I plan to produce at least 5 "Concept in 60" videos, and I will post them on whatever collaborative forum we decide to use. To spur discussion, I will also post a question or comment related to the "Concept in 60" video. This will provide me an opportunity to respond to those who post, so I should easily be able to post 4 or more responses each week. Also, I will do the required reading (at least 210 min/week) and add to the collaborative notes.

For the portfolio, I will complete a book review on Ernest Becker's *Denial of Death*. I am fascinated with the notion of mortality salience, a key concept in social psychology's terror management theory (TMT), and its role in creating cultural divides. My research involves the interplay between digital rhetoric, agnotology, and the TMT immortality imperative that drives humans. TMT is based on the work of Becker, and this is an excellent opportunity for me to start reading his work in earnest.

ALAN BLANCHARD  12 SEP 2022
Printed Name Signature Date

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