Dear Students:

As you know, Fort Lewis College is moving to a Pass/Fail type grading system for this term to alleviate some of the anxiety due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all courses very suddenly moving to an online format.  The default grades for the term will be Pass/Pass-/No Credit, where a Pass is basically an A, B or C, a Pass- is a D and No Credit is an F.

However, you as a student will have the option to receive a traditional letter grade instead. This choice must be made by April 27th, 2020.  As you’ve learned in your finance classes, options have *value* so consider the options below carefully.

The way grading will work in our class will be as follows:

* If you are content with the P/P-/NC grading system, **do nothing**.  This is the default and your grade will come from this system.
* If you would like a letter grade instead, you need to let me know this via email by April 27th – this is an FLC deadline, not mine. Here you have two options:
  1. If you are content with whatever letter grade you end up with, let me know you want **Letter Grade Option Whatever.**
  2. Here we have a rare, no risk, potentially high return option!  This is a little more complicated, but might be worth your time to think about.   *You may choose the minimum letter grade you are willing to accept*.  If you make that grade or better, you get the letter grade you earned.  If you don’t quite make that grade, you will get a Pass instead (as long as you pass the class of course).

It might be as simple as you would be happy with any kind of A or B for the class (A, A-, B+, B or B-) but not a C+ or lower.  In this case, you would tell me that the option you want is **Letter Grade Option B- or better.** If your final percentage ends up at 80% or above, you will receive the corresponding letter grade; otherwise your grade will revert to the P/P-/NC system.

Or, assume you have a GPA of 3.1.  In this case, a B+ (worth 3.33 on your GPA) or better improves your GPA, whereas a B (worth 3.0) or worse slightly lowers your GPA.  If this were you, you might accept a B+ or better, but take the Pass if you get a B or worse, and you would tell me that the option you want is **Letter Grade Option B+ or better.**  Or *possibly* you would be OK with a B too, *it will be your choice*.

Clearly this is the most complicated option, but my hope is that this option achieves two goals:  1) It relieves some of the anxiety from our current situation (if you don’t make the grade you want, you still pass the class!) but also 2) provides a positive incentive to continue striving to get best grade you can for the course.  I’m happy to discuss more details via email or on Zoom.

**Again, if you are content with P/P-/NC grade system, do nothing. If you want a letter grade instead, you must email me (so I have a record) with either *whatever* or your *minimum grade* threshold by April 27th.**

Your current grades and percentage are on Canvas.  By April 27th, you will have a pretty good idea of your course grade.  As stated in they syllabus, letter grades are assigned as:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Percentage | Points (out of 450 possible) | Grade | GPA Value |
| 94 and up | 423 | A | 4.0 |
| 90 – 93.9 | 405 | A- | 3.67 |
| 87 – 89.9 | 392 | B+ | 3.33 |
| 83 – 86.9 | 374 | B | 3.0 |
| 80 – 82.9 | 360 | B- | 2.67 |
| 77 – 79.9 | 347 | C+ | 2.33 |
| 73 – 76.9 | 329 | C | 2.0 |
| 70 – 72.9 | 315 | C- | 1.67 |
| 67 – 69.9 | 302 | D+ | 1.33 |
| 63 – 66.9 | 284 | D | 1.0 |
| 60 – 62.9 | 270 | D- | 0.67 |
| 59.9 or less | 269 or less | F | 0.0 |

For our class, on the Pass/Pass-/No Credit system, any percentage above a 65 (Points above 293) will be a Pass, percentages between 50 and 64.9 (Points between 225 and 292) will be a Pass- and percentages below 50 (Points 224 or less) will be No Credit.

What if?

There were 300 points available before Spring Break and will be 150 (15 assignments at 10 points per assignment) more for the online part of the class. You can find how many point before the break you had on Canvas and you can add how many after break points you’ve earned from the OCAs.

What if you had 265 points before the break and have submitted three perfect OCAs for 3\*10 = 30 more points? That would put your current total at 265 + 30 = 295. Good news – you have already passed the class! So, you could give up now, take the P, and wash your hands (*pun intended*) of the rest of the course. However, you’re probably looking at a possible B+ or some kind of A for the class so you have an incentive to keep it up, try to learn something and shoot for a good grade that will help your overall GPA. **This is your choice**.