

Course and Classroom Policies Spring 2024

Instructor

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Notification of Student Support Services

Per the Academic Catalog, “The Academic Support Center, located in the Bicknell House, promotes learning skills and personal development through academic counseling, academic advising, tutoring services, Academic Coach program, learning workshops, disability services and a transition program for selected new students. Tutors and academic coaches are peers, recommended by the faculty, paid and available upon request. Through individual sessions and workshops offered by the Center, students can enhance study habits and acquire new learning strategies, behaviors and attitudes.’

Further information may be found on MyBC by choosing Student Academics > Academic Support and Tutoring from the main drop-down menu.

Disability Accommodations

Bridgewater College is committed to providing students equal access to the college’s academic programs and activities.

Students who have barriers resulting from attention, learning, visual, hearing, physical, psychological, or chronic or temporary medical conditions that impact learning and for which an accommodation may be needed should contact Academic Support and Disability Services (540-828-5660 or disabilityservices@bridgewater.edu).

Students must present to the faculty member a letter from the office of Academic Support and Disability Services to receive their accommodations and up to two weeks may be required to implement them. A letter from the Office of Academic Support and Disability Services is required every semester in which accommodations are requested.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy

Bridgewater College prohibits sexual harassment and discrimination, including sexual violence. Faculty are “Mandatory Reporters” under our school’s sexual misconduct policy. That means that I am obligated to pass on to the College’s Title IX Coordinator any instances of sexual misconduct that I see or hear about, including things that you may tell me. The policy is written to ensure that the College provides a safe environment for everyone and to make sure we help people who have been subjected to these behaviors. I am a resource for you, but I want you to know that if you tell me about something that happened to you or someone else, I am obligated to report it. I will keep the information private, but I need to report it to the Title IX Coordinator.

You can contact the Title IX Coordinator directly at 540-828-8063 or TitleIXCoordinator@bridgewater.edu. If you want to talk with someone who can keep the information confidential, you may contact the following college resources:

- Counseling Services: (540) 828-5402
- Health Services: (540) 828-5384
- College Chaplain: (540) 828-5383

For more information on the sexual misconduct policy, please contact the Title IX Coordinator or refer to <https://www.bridgewater.edu/title-ix-resources/sexual-misconduct-policy/>.

Non-Discrimination & Non-Harassment Policy

As members of a community we must treat each other with respect at all times. Discrimination or harassment will not be tolerated in this class. If a student demonstrates an attitude inconsistent with this policy, he or she will be asked to leave the class and will be reported to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Classroom Behavior

The instructor may dismiss from the classroom any student, who, in the discretion of the instructor, is engaged in unprofessional, rude, disrespectful or disruptive conduct or conduct violating the general rules and regulations of the College.

College Honor Code and Plagiarism

The College Honor Code reads as follows: “Ethics, honor, and integrity are the fundamental principles at the core of the Bridgewater College experience. Our community can only flourish in an environment of trust and respect. These notions of personal honor, integrity, and faith are the fundamentals of the Bridgewater Honor System. The Code of Honor prohibits cheating, stealing and lying in regard to academic matters, lying during Honor Council proceedings, and failing to report to confront known violators of the Code of Honor.”

The Bridgewater College Plagiarism Policy is found online at <http://bridgewater.edu/WritingCenter/BCplagiarism.htm>.

Plagiarism includes copying code from an online or other source without citation.

Students are expected to submit work that is entirely their own.

Unless instructed otherwise, if two students have been assigned the same assignment, neither student is allowed to show their work to the other until both students have submitted their work for a grade.

A first instance (in this or any other course) of cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment, quiz, or exam. Repeated instances (in this or any other course) of cheating or plagiarism will result a grade of F for the course.

Grading

One of the primary responsibilities of a college professor is to provide those that are interested (e.g. hiring managers, graduate admissions officers) with evaluations of students in their classes via grades on their transcripts. Your grade in this course tells others how well you know the material presented in this course and how well you work.

To make the evaluation as objective as possible assignments and exams are used as assessment tools.

Final letter grades are calculated according to the following scale.

Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Quality Points
93 or higher	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80 - 82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7
59 or lower	F	0

Strong Work Ethic Policy in 100 and 200 Level Courses

Understanding that knowledge is acquired over time, if a student in a 100 or 200 level course *consistently shows a strong work ethic* throughout the course and *the course has a cumulative final exam*, their final letter grade will be based on whichever numeric grade is greater: the student's course grade and the student's final exam grade. Otherwise the student's final letter grade will be based solely on the student's course grade as defined in the syllabus.

A student is considered to consistently show a strong work ethic throughout the course if the student

- Abides by all classroom policies
- Has perfect attendance (see below)
- Is attentive during every class
- Submits every homework assignment on time
- Receives a mean score of 70 or greater on coursework

Class Attendance

Per the Bridgewater College Student Handbook,

“Regular class attendance is expected of all students and attendance records are kept. Specific policies regarding the number of absences allowed in particular courses are determined by instructors; however, if a student is absent for an entire week without credible explanation or has what the instructor considers excessive absences overall (whether or not they are consecutive), he or she will be reported to the associate dean for academic affairs who will determine the circumstances of the absences and, after consulting with the instructor, make a recommendation as to whether the student should continue in the course.

If a student, through excessive absences, demonstrates minimal academic motivation, or an attitude inconsistent with reasonable expectations of a member of an academic community, the student will be subject to administrative disciplinary review, which could result in suspension or expulsion.

Absences that occur because of College activities approved by the vice president and dean for academic affairs will be reported in advance to the registrar by the instructor sponsoring the activity, and the registrar will notify instructors of the students involved. The student is responsible for all work missed when absent from class. Students should discuss absences with their professors before the absence occurs.”

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of lecture. A student that is late will be marked as absent, unless notified in advance or in the case of a documented emergency.

An excused absence is an absence due to a Registrar approved college activity or a documented emergency. If a student is unable to come to campus, the absence must be approved by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Hammill (rhammill@bridgewater.edu).

A student has perfect attendance if he or she has no unexcused absences and is never late.

In the case of an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible to request materials that was handed out and to plan a course of action to learn the material that was missed. A student will receive a score of 0 for a quiz or exam that is missed due to an unexcused absence.

Attentive Behavior

During lecture, the instructor will periodically poll the class and ask individuals questions to determine if the class and those called upon comprehend the topic at hand. When the instructor is not actively engaging you, the instructor is observing you. When the instructor observes you, it is extremely helpful to him if you provide him with visual cues that indicate your level of understanding. Head nods, head shakes, and puzzled looks are very helpful. What is not helpful is when you bury your head in your notes, avoid eye contact, or worse, when you use your phone when he is lecturing. Please help the instructor help you by being attentive. Focus on every word he says, try to understand what he is saying, and provide him with feedback to let him know how much you understand.

Homework

Homework is assigned to encourage students to practice applying the concepts that are written in the textbook and that are discussed in the lectures. Homework is, however, often not a valid assessment tool. Therefore, I reserve the right to not assign grades to the assignments that I ask you to complete.

Late Work

Assignments will be accepted for correction after the due dates, but unless arrangements are made with the professor in advance or in the case of an emergency, late assignments will receive a score of zero.

Make-Up Quizzes & Exams

Make-up quizzes and exams will not be given and the student will receive a grade of zero unless arrangements are made with the professor in advance or in the case of an emergency. Students that arrive late for a quiz or exam will not be given additional time unless arrangements are made with the professor in advance or in the case of an emergency.

No Re-entry Rule

Once an exam has started, if you leave the room you are not allowed to reenter the room until the exam has ended.

Reevaluating Graded Work

If you'd like me to reevaluate any graded work, please follow the directions below.

Please submit a typed request that includes the following:

- Your name (typed).
- For each problem that you would like me to re-evaluate, please include the problem number and a defense for the answer you provided. Your job is to persuade me. If you include references from the text or another source, please provide page numbers or other information that allows me to verify your claim.
- Your signature. You must sign your request before I will reevaluate your graded work.

Please staple your request to your original work (if on paper).

Your request must be submitted to me by the end of business on the day of the next lecture that follows the day in which you received your grade or graded work back.

Cell Phones

Cell phones should be turned off and concealed during class unless instructed otherwise. In the case that you are expecting an emergency call during class, please inform the professor at the beginning of class and sit near the door so that you can quickly take the call in the hall.

Electronic Devices

Personal computers, tablets and other electronic devices may not be used to take notes in lecture unless instructed otherwise. You may, and are encouraged to, bring and use your personal laptop in lab and when doing programming exercises in lecture.

Eating

Eating is not allowed during lab or lecture. Consuming beverages is fine.

Changes to the Syllabus, Course and Classroom Policies and Schedule

The syllabus, course and classroom policies, and course schedule may be modified by the instructor during the semester in order to foster better student learning. When changes are made to these documents, students will receive a statement specifying the changes. The statement will be sent either via email or will be distributed to the class during lecture.