

# Rating vs. Grading

Maintaining steady standards  
through a course of study

# Grading

- We adjust expectations to the level of the student.
- We adjust expectations to the level of the course.
- We assign grades “on the curve” so that on any given assignment, most are Bs or Cs.

# Standards-based rating

- We set a fixed outcome standard and objectively assess the proximity of student work to what we will eventually expect of a graduating senior.
- The grade ASSOCIATED with a rating may vary with the level of class or student, but the rating itself should reflect a consistent standard.

# Examples

- SOC 1100, “Apply concepts” quiz.
  - Stuart Tudent demonstrates fragmentary knowledge of concepts. Rating = 1, grade = B
- SOC 3160, “Review concepts” essay question.
  - Stuart Tudent demonstrates fragmentary knowledge of concepts. Rating = 1, grade = F

# Assignments

- Preferably, students should have to APPLY knowledge and/or DEMONSTRATE skills.
- Let students preview the rubric. Explain how you will use it.
- Explain the difference between rating and grading so students aren't shocked by their scores.
- If you think you'll need to, keep notes.