

What is the Deal with all the “Teams”?

This class uses a **Team-Based Learning** structure. As such, each site will have at least one learning Team for the duration of the Quarter. A large amount of in-class activities will be based on using the Teams, often with them interacting with the other Teams in application exercises. The grading structure is based such that everyone will have a stake in the success of their Team but still have a large amount of personal control:

% of your Grade based on your individual work: 67%
% of your Grade based on Team’s work: 33%

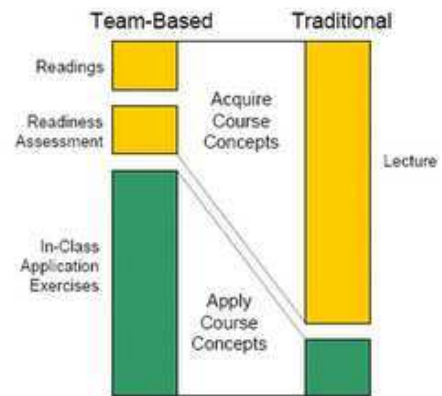
In the past, many students have found this structure beneficial to their grade, interest level and made the

class more enjoyable. From Winter 2009 – Fall 2009, **84.1% of students in my Team-Based classes either Agreed or Strongly Agreed with the statement that “The Team Based Learning structure of the course helped me learn.”** Some of their anonymous comments on Team Based Learning:

- *"I do not think I would have enjoyed the class as much if it wasn't for ... the team based learning."*
- *" I have never had so much fun learning. The well organized and team based approach was a breath of fresh air for this college."*
- *"...the team-based learning technique that was employed helped me to learn much more than I expected"*

One key to this structure is that we will begin most weeks with a “Readiness” quiz over the weekend’s readings. We will do this so you, your team and myself will all leave class Tuesday nights with a clear understanding of what parts of the material we need to focus our work on the rest of the week. Based on those quiz results, I will tailor the rest of the week’s activities to focus on weak spots for the class.

For more info on Team Based Learning, go to: www.teambasedlearning.org



So What Do I Need to Do to Get a Good Grade?

1. Do the assigned readings. There are regular class activities that are dependent on the material in the readings. Trying to slapshot things without doing the readings will not be a good recipe for success.
2. Participate - - ask a question, call me, e-mail me, etc. if you are fuzzy on something, hop into the online discussions, etc... this will make sure you understand things & make it more interesting as well let you get more of your money's worth for class. Your questions and comments are important here!!
3. Do the Blackboard assignments on Time! Make any necessary time/logistics arrangements now so that you will be able to make your weekly Blackboard postings on time each week.
4. Contribute to and Utilize Your Team mates – Your Team mates can be a great resource in addition to myself for helping to figure out tricky material or concepts. Likewise, reach out to your team mates to try and make sure they understand what they need to and are on the ball.
5. Think about the material, activities and your experiences. The aim here is not to get you to regurgitate and purge disconnected theories. To that end, **much of the grading and assignments are aimed at rewarding demonstrations of reflection and critical thinking** about the material.
6. For general study tips: www.ncstatecollege.edu/STUDENTSVCSS/SSC/Howtostudy.htm