

What is the “Goal System,” Anyway?

In this course, you will have the opportunity to decide what final mark you would like to achieve on each assignment by deciding how much of the assignment you want to attempt. As this is something that you are probably not used to doing, this short document has been created to help explain the concept. This system will help you to set a goal and then take the responsibility to reach it.

You will be able to decide how much work you want to do, with the expectation that a higher mark will require you to do more work. This system will apply ONLY to assignments while tests will be evaluated in the traditional way. When you begin each assignment you can decide up front the amount of work that you feel you can comfortably handle. Keep in mind, however, that while you can limit the amount of work you have to do, you also limit the highest mark that you can achieve in the course. The great news is that this system will help prevent students from feeling overwhelmed by the workload. You will be able to focus on the parts that you choose to do and you will also do a good job on those parts. In other words, you know your own limitations and this system will allow you to focus on the parts of assignments that you are required to complete and not worry about the rest. In general, successive questions on an assignment will become more difficult.

Let’s look at a hypothetical assignment. Imagine an assignment which has 10 questions included with it. For a variety of reasons, you might decide that for this assignment you want to complete only the first seven questions. This means that you must complete these questions *completely* and *correctly* and the maximum grade you can earn on the assignment is 70%.

There are some very important requirements to keep in mind when considering the mark that you want to work toward:

1. Each assignment you hand in will be evaluated on an “all-or-nothing” basis. This means that everything you do, as stated earlier, must be *complete* and it must be *correct*.
2. After you submit an assignment it will be graded and handed back to you. You will have a period of 3 or 4 days to make any corrections necessary. For example, if you completed all 7 questions but got one of them wrong, you can correct that one answer and then explain the correct answer *orally*. Other than during or between classes, *Mr. Gallant* will be available every morning from 8:00 to 8:40 if you need help with any part of any assignment, or to help you with corrections, even before it has been submitted. If, after making your correction and explaining it, the question has still not been answered correctly, a mark of zero would be recorded for this assignment because you did not complete the work you agreed to complete. That is worth saying again. *If you do not answer all questions that you attempt completely and correctly, you will get a mark of zero for that assignment.* Remember that incomplete and incorrect work are unacceptable. It is also important to emphasize that there is no reason to ever get a zero because you can just keep trying until you get all questions correct. Getting a zero would mean that you chose to not come in for help with the part(s) of the assignment that you were struggling with or that you didn’t bother to make your corrections.
3. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 30% up to one day late. Assignments submitted more than one day late will not be accepted. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, s/he may submit it on the day s/he returns to school if a valid, written excuse is provided.