

## **What do grades mean in W130 and W131?**

The English Department offers many sections of W130 and W131 each year, taught by many different teachers. These courses share a set of department-approved course goals and use common types of assignments, and the readings come from a small number of department-approved anthologies. These departmental policies and others help make the courses similar in content and assist teachers in giving grades that are fair from one section to the next. In addition, teachers in W130 and W131 assign course grades on the main papers according to these shared guidelines:

C means that a paper satisfies the goals stated in the assignment and rubric\*.

B means that a paper satisfies the goals stated in the assignment and rubric with some complexity or sophistication.

A means that a paper satisfies the goals stated in the assignment and rubric with complexity and excellence.

D means that a paper markedly fails to satisfy important requirements of an assignment.

C- means that an early semester paper has not met the goals for a C but shows a promising level of accomplishment. C- means that a late semester paper shows some accomplishment but does not satisfy the department goals for the course.

### **\*What is a rubric?**

A rubric is a guideline or set of criteria for grading based on the assignment and the department's course goals. A rubric might be included in the assignment sheet or it might be a separate document. No matter which format a teacher chooses, the assignment and rubric should provide students with a clear sense, in writing, of what is expected on a paper. Many of the terms of a rubric usually come from the department's course goals.