Five Key Points

Every semester, I find it necessary to emphasize one or more of the following points. Please review these carefully to make sure you avoid these common pitfalls that often make the difference between an A and B or C and D. For some of you this information is repeated; for others of you it is new. You may consider this memo an addendum to your syllabus, effective immediately.

1. **DEAF**: The members of the culture we are studying are DEAF, not DEATH. To refer to a Deaf person as death is a common, but an unfortunate and completely nonsensical error. When people ask me if I work with the death, I reply, “Yeth.” Remember, people who cannot hear that are members of a culture are referred to as Deaf—not deaf or death or hearing impaired or deaf-mute or certainly not deaf and dumb. Deaf people are members of Deaf culture.

2. **QUIZ**: I give quizzes at the beginning of class. This is to encourage not only your attendance but your timely arrival to class as well. Because quizzes are given, in part, as a form of encouraging attendance, quizzes cannot be made up; however, I will drop your lowest quiz score when calculating your final grade. This will prevent you from being unfairly penalized for an excused absence. If you are in class but don’t take the quiz, you not only get a 0 but you are counted absent as well. You must turn in a piece of paper with your name on it (even if it is otherwise blank) in order to receive credit for being in class.

3. **HOURS**: As part of the requirement for this class, you must interact with members of the Deaf community for a total of at least 15 hours. I will, over the course of the semester, give you numerous opportunities to do this: festivals, plays, church services, and other events with the Deaf community. But you don’t have to wait for me; you can come up with your own. Perhaps you have a Deaf co-worker or neighbor that you would like to interview or simply chat with. See me for approval on any events of your own choosing; do not assume I will accept them, though I probably will. After attending your event, you are to write up a
one-page summary in which you tell me how many hours you attended (subject to independent verification) and in which you express to me what you learned, if you enjoyed the experience, and how it could have been different or better. Please turn this in within one week of the event.

4. **ATTENDANCE:** As you know, each of you has a limited number of absences allowed from each class. If you are unsure about how many, please review the syllabus. If you exceed the allowable number of absences, I WILL NOT drop you; however, I will lower your grade (based on participation points), as stated in your syllabus.

   In addition, if you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what we covered in class and if there is any homework or a quiz scheduled. In order to do that, I expect you to call a classmate to get the information. I prefer that you don’t call me because I have many students, and—unfortunately—I simply don’t have the time to return phone calls every day to review class work and assignments.

5. **TARDINESS:** Class begins and ends at a specific time, and I expect you to arrive BEFORE class begins and to remain throughout the entire class. If you arrive to class late or leave class early, you are tardy. If you are tardy twice, that counts as one absence. You may not leave class before it ends except in cases of DIRE EMERGENCY. That means you must communicate to your parents, employers, and others that they cannot page you to leave class early for their convenience. If there is some compelling reason that requires you to leave class early, I expect you to speak to me before class begins to secure permission.

As always, if you have any concerns or feel as though you are falling behind in class, please feel free to visit me in my office. I am more than happy to help you. I recommend that you visit my office in person during my office hours; if you can’t, then send me an email; if you can’t, as a last resort, telephone me.