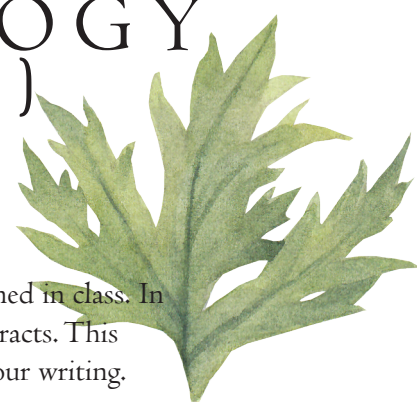




cicadas spend 17 years underground. when they finally emerge, they only live for 4-6 weeks while they mate. they spend their hours above ground screeching cicada songs.

CREATIVE WRITING GRADE ENTOMOLOGY (GRADING CONTRACT) sounds scary...but really, it's not.



WHAT IS IT?

A grading contract is an agreement between a teacher and students on how grades will be earned in class. In this course, we're using a format introduced by Asao B. Inoue called labor-based grading contracts. This contract stipulates that grades in this class are based on labor and effort, not the quality of your writing.

WHY IS IT AWESOME?



teeny-tiny mayfly.
even though it is
august.

Labor-based grading makes any grade possible for any student depending on how much work you are willing to put into class. This means that no student comes into the class with an unfair advantage or disadvantage based upon previous education or experience. Grading contracts all every student an equal chance to take big risks in their writing, and to fail, without worrying about the outcome of their formal letter grade. This will improve your opportunity to really get creative and learn.

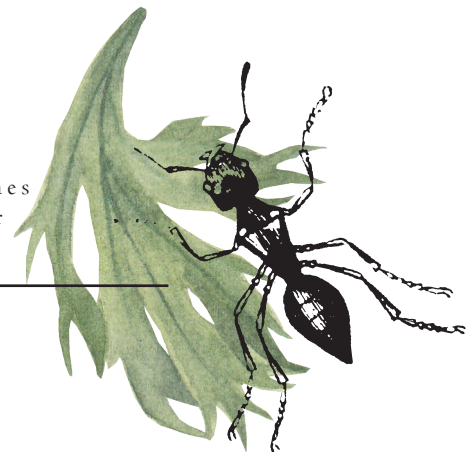
Instead of being graded on your writing, you will receive feedback from me on each of your formal writing projects. This feedback is not calculated into your grade point average and is offered to help you learn and grow as a writer.

MY HOPE:

I hope this grading system will allow you the freedom and flexibility to take risks in your writing while also providing time for you to revise your writing drafts into more usable, sophisticated, and polished drafts—without the frustration and stress often associated with assigned letter grades to formal writing projects.

I will formulate final course grades based on labor, effort, and participation. To do well, you will need to write creatively, offer generous participation, and put forth your best effort each day.

ants have been documented to be able to carry up to twenty times their own body weight. if a human could lift twenty times their body weight that would be about 4,000 pounds. ants are b.a.





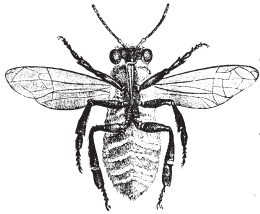
PICK YOUR GRADE INSECT



Ant

Wow! You are committing to carrying more than needed! To get an A, I expect:

- You will exhibit generous class participation
 - You will complete three additional writing prompts as provided by the Queen ant (me)
 - You will complete all assigned tasks on time
 - You will laugh at all my jokes. (ok, that's a joke, but I don't hear laughing...)
-



Bee

Way to Bee! You are guaranteed a B in this course if:

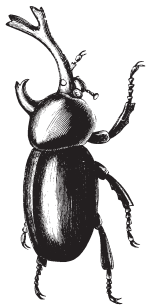
- You complete all your writing projects
 - You accumulate no more than two late assignments
 - You exhibit good class participation
 - You read the unabridged War and Peace by Tolstoy (also, a joke. That's just nuts.)
-



Cicada

Hey! Welcome above ground! You will get a C in this course if:

- You have no more than one late writing project
 - You accumulate no more than four late assignments
 - You exhibit mediocre class participation
 - You spend every class period screeching (please don't, I'm just running out of jokes)
-

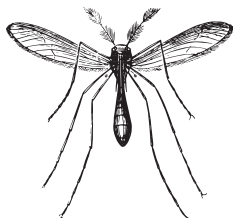


Dungbeetle

It's fine, sometimes life gets crappy and you just have to roll with it. D means:

- You have more than one late writing project
 - You have more than four late assignments
 - You do not participate in class
 - You do not communicate with me
-

NOTE: I am here to help you along. If you start falling behind, PLEASE talk to me. I will help you with your crap.



F...mosquito, cause it sucks

No one likes mosquitoes, but they are rare in my classroom. To get a F:

- You have not submitted your writing projects
 - You have not attended class or checked D2L for more than 2 weeks without communication with me. Talk with me and we can get you caught up.
-