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(Link is case sensitive)



Grading Reimagined: Faculty Panel exploring alternative approaches to student assessment

CTL Spring Conference
Feb 25, 2025

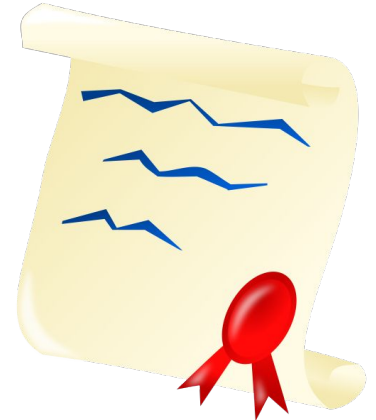


Basic Terms

- **Standards-Based Grading** (also referred to as mastery-based grading): A system in which students master a set of skills appropriate to their grade level. Once students become proficient in a skill, they progress to the next level.
- **Contract grading:** A system where a grading contract is developed (either by the instructor alone, or in conjunction with students) and the requirements for specific grades are clearly outlined.
- **Labor-based grading:** A system in which the number of hours or effort dedicated to the process of learning is accounted for over the end-product.

Basic Terms contd.

- **Specifications grading:** Instructor sets specific learning objectives which can be broken down into different assignments, quizzes, and/or exams, to create “bundles” for students to complete to achieve certain grade levels. Often involve pass/fail grade for each assignment with opportunity to re-submit.
- **Ungrading:** Focuses on learning and growth rather than assigning grades. Emphasizes frequent feedback, self-reflection, and metacognition.





Meet the Panelists



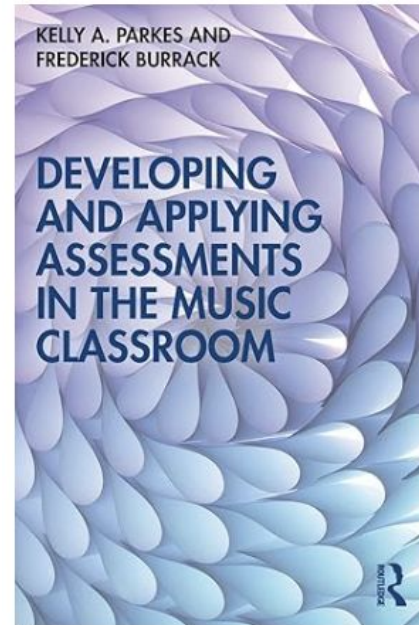
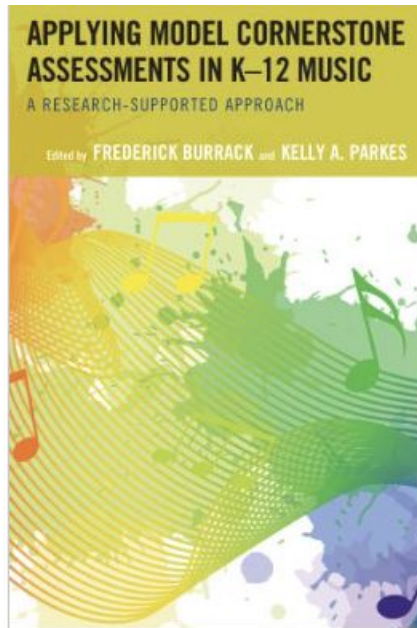


Dr. Kelly Parkes

Associate Professor

Music Education

College of Music



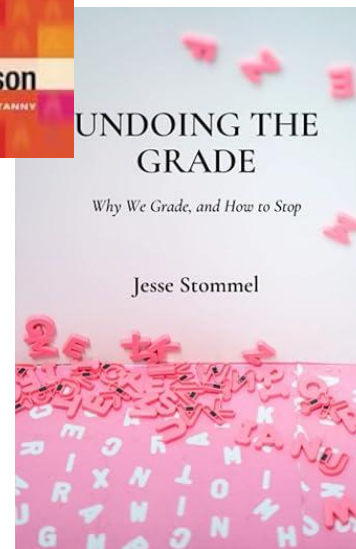
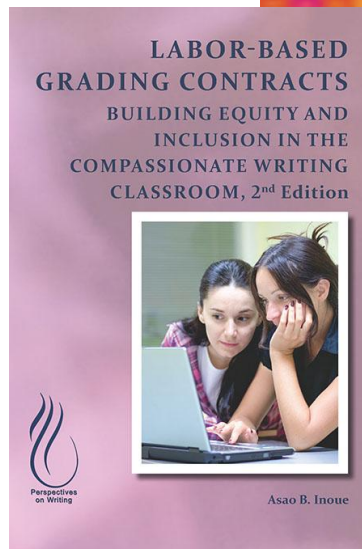
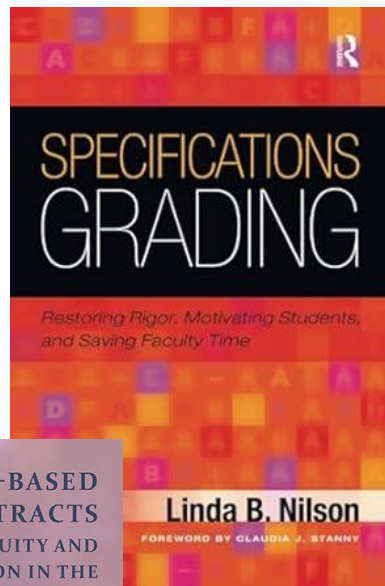
Dr. Michael Ferguson

Associate Professor & President's Teaching Scholar

Political Science

College of Arts & Sciences

I use a combination of ungrading, gamified points-based grading, contract grading, and specifications grading in my classes (not all in the same class!).





Dr. Jeremy Koch

Assistant Teaching Professor

Paul M. Rady Mechanical Engineering

College of Engineering & Applied Sciences

In my graduate classes I use something like ungrading
(culminates in a reflection essay w/ self-assessment):

MCEN 5021: Introduction to Fluid Dynamics

MCEN 5022: Classical Thermodynamics



It Doesn't Have to Be This Way

Thoughts on Education, Learning, and Change

By Josh Eyler · Over 1,000 subscribers



Grading for Growth

Research and ideas about reforming grading practices in higher education and beyond.

Over 5,000 subscribers

Jesse Stommel



Dr. Katherine Ramos

Assistant Teaching Professor

Mechanical Engineering

College of Engineering & Applied Sciences

Current Grading Practice - **Hybrid Model** of Specifications and Standards-Based Grading in the following Courses:

- MCEN 1030 Intro. to Engineering Computing (84)
- MCEN 2023 Statics and Structures (96)

Top Recommendation for Resources:

- Grading for Growth
- The Grading Podcast



GRADING

FOR GROWTH

A Guide to Alternative Grading Practices
that Promote Authentic Learning and
Student Engagement in Higher Education

DAVID CLARK AND ROBERT TALBERT
FOREWORD BY LINDA NILSON

- ❖ No Points or Partial Credit*
- ❖ Standards for Student Work
- ❖ Evaluation and Feedback
- ❖ Opportunities to Revise
- ❖ Grades Based on Meeting Learning Objectives

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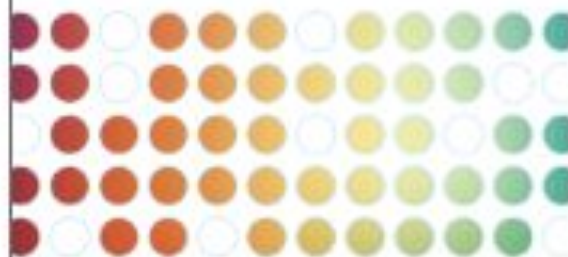


Additional resources on implementing alternative grading practices



UNgrading

Why Rating Students
Undermines Learning
(and What to Do
Instead)



EDITED BY

Susan D. Blum

With a foreword by Alfie Kohn