

STUDY GROUPS: TOWARDS EFFECTIVE PEER TO PEER EDUCATION page 7

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http://biology.clc.uc.edu/fankhauser/Labs/Study_Groups.htm

An old adage goes "If you want to *really* learn a subject, teach it to someone." One of the most effective means of learning as subject is to explain the material to others and to explore its significance with them. I have contrived "study groups" to encourage you to engage in this activity. It will reward you in two ways. First, you will more effectively (and enjoyably?) learn the material. Second, you will be awarded points for this activity which will be added to your cumulative points and raise your score in the course.

To form your study group, arrange with **at least three and up to five persons** to meet **once a week** to review and explore material presented in class and/or which was covered in the assigned readings. Together, "instruct your peers, and be instructed by them." As you read through your class notes, pay attention to:

- 1) **PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES:** Describe and explain to each other the principles and processes related to the assigned topics.
- 2) **ILLUSTRATIONS:** Redraw, label and explore the significance of illustrations presented in class.
- 3) **TERMS:** List and redefine terms presented in class.
- 4) **POSIT QUESTIONS:** Ask each other practice questions which you believe are central to the issue.
- 5) **WORDSTEMS:** Compare wordstem lists and drill each other on their meanings.

I am so convinced of the importance of these study group sessions that I will give students who meet these criteria up to 30 points per quarter (ten points per report). This corresponds to approximately 6% of your grade for the quarter. (**NOTE:** if you choose not to participate in a study group, you will effectively lower your cumulative grade by 6%...)

Please rigorously observe the honor code in your reporting.

Ground Rules:

1. The study group must be composed of **at least 3 and no more than 5 people** who set a mutually acceptable hour to meet on a weekly basis. (Groups outside this range do not get full credit.) For continuing courses (i.e., 102, 202, 302, etc) each member of an "integrated" group will get a bonus point *on the first report period* if the group contains both veterans to the course as well as newbies.)
2. Meet for **at least one full hour in the given week.**
3. Select a chairperson who will be responsible for preparing and submitting the report. At the *conclusion of each session*, the **Chair fills in the date and hours of the study session** and spells out several questions which arose during the session. The duties of the chair are listed on the report form. If the report is *correctly* filled in and filed, the Chair will receive one additional point per report submitted. The duties of the chair may be rotated within the group.
4. **At the end of each session, each student who participated for the entire hour signs** the form, testifying to the truthfulness of the report. **Lastly, the Chair signs**, affirming that all submitted information is correct and truthful. Strict adherence to the honor code is what makes this system work. Thanks.
5. Students will receive 3 points per each full session attended, and a bonus point if all three sessions in a given report period were attended. The Chair will also receive the Chair's bonus point for correctly filling in and submitting the report (maximum of 11 points per report period for the Chair). **The Chair should circle the date the report is to be submitted.**
6. The report must be **submitted in class on the dates are listed at the top of the report form** (usually prior to the administration of a test or quiz). If the Chair is not be able to turn in the report on the due date, someone else should be assigned that duty. Late reports do not earn the bonus point for the Chair.