A NOTE ON MY GRADING POLICY:

Exams are graded on a scale from 0 to 100 points.

Remember that you have a 10-point "class participation" score that, in effect, is a gift for showing up. This will tend to curve your final grades upward.

Any other type of assignment that must be graded somewhat "subjectively" such as papers and analysis is graded using a rating system that I was taught in graduate school. This rating system, therefore, is a professional standard in the field of public policy, political science and public administration. The system has reliability over time and across students and inserts a measure of validity into what would otherwise be an entirely subjective rating system. It also allows me to calculate an average in excel. I could replace A and B with 1 through 4 or 5 and get the same results. Ultimately the numbers must be turned into letter grades.

Remember that you are being graded on academic work AND on professional standards in the field of public administration.

100 - implies perfection. I have never given this grade on a paper since, no one is perfect. I have (just last semester) given a 98. This implies extraordinary work which meets all professional standards and goes beyond the basic assignment requirements.

95 - Meets professional standards, can be published or presented before policy making bodies, contains minor flaws as does all our output in the workplace.

90 - Meets classroom standards but contains one or more flaws that fail to meet professional standards for publication or presentation - including flaws in editing, syntax, analysis, data presentation.

85 - Meets classroom standards but has two or more of the flaws cited above.

80 - Meets assignment requirements but contains three or more of the above-mentioned flaws.

75 - Is below assignment requirements including failure to answer all questions, major problems with editing and syntax, failure to label and present data, incorrect analysis. Contains four or more of these errors

70 - Barely meets assignment requirements. In short, you handed something in and since you are a graduate student, I did not give you a D. This assignment has major problems....too numerous to list.

I hope that this clarifies the issue of grading. I do tend to curve upward....78 and up is a B, 88 and up is an A.