3 A's
ATTENDANCE........ATTITUDE........ASSIGNMENTS

The 3A's should speak for themselves.

ATTENDANCE - Attendance is an integral part of your learning experience. To create the best learning experience for yourself, you need to show up and contribute. Your physical presence is not simply a way in which I account for your time; I consider it to be your primary learning tool. And not only for you but for your fellow students. Why? Because in addition to learning from me (which you will) you have the opportunity to reflect on the conversations of others. Why else? You have a lot to offer in the form of conversation and experience and your participation will help provide a vibrant learning atmosphere in which others can also learn from you.

Attendance in an online course is measured by staying on calendar with all of your projects and the quantity and quality of your contributions to the Forums. And just like a campus course, I notice when folks are consistently missing from the Forum discussions and consistently turning their assignments in late.

ATTITUDE - As in every other facet of life, a great attitude goes a long way. It is not hard to evaluate a positive attitude in the classroom: a student who is committed to learning, approaches the classroom environment with a smile, participates with positive comments and feedback and respects others. In the classroom, improper use of technology (texting, phones, Internet surfing) or other disruptions do not (to me) reflect a good attitude.

In an online course, attitude is reflected from the words that you write, rather than the words that you speak, so it is very important to think your ideas through before you submit your work. It is quite easy to be misconstrued in the distance-learning arena.

So try and keep in mind that when students make me happy by participating in discussions, submitting quality work on time and making me smile, I try to reciprocate the enjoyment that they send my way when I am determining final grades. If that seems subjective and arbitrary on my part, it’s not. Because chances are that if you make me happy in that manner, you will make your classmates’ happy also, and then we have created a great learning atmosphere from which we can all benefit.

ASSIGNMENTS - All of our projects and discussions are important learning tools and I pay close attention to the quality and timeliness of all assignments. This is a life-skill that is not only relevant in the classroom, it will be paramount as a measure of professionalism in your career.

The 3A's count for 100 of your semester points, or 20% of your total grade, and as you can see it is somewhat subjective, meaning it is up to my best judgment as to how many of these points you will receive. Of course, my best judgment will be influenced by your best effort.

Cheers.