

Determination of Course Grade

Statistics 301, Fall Semester, 2008, Lectures 3 and 4

Professor Wardrop

At the end of the course, you will have a certain number of points. Your course grade is based on your number of points. In order to save a lot of time later, let me remark that your course grade does not depend on any of the following factors:

- How hard you work; how much you improve; how much you were hurt by not having more time on the exams; the grade you want; the grade your program wants you to have; the grade you think that your effort, learning, etc. deserves; the fact that you are ‘an A student’ or ‘a B student.’

None of these factors matters. Thus, please don’t mention them to me. By the way, the above list is not exhaustive. They are intended as examples only.

So, how do you get these points?

- **Homework: 17 points.** Homework will be graded on a ‘+’ or ‘-’ system. If an assignment is submitted on time and it appears that you tried to complete it, then you will receive a ‘+’; otherwise, you will receive a ‘-’. Your homework grade starts at 16. Your first ‘-’ does not affect your grade, but you will lose two points for each additional ‘-’ that you receive. In addition, you can receive one point for submitting both the TA and faculty evaluations.
- **Projects: 51 points.** Seventeen points are possible for each of three projects. See the *Project Assignment* handout for details.
- **Exams: 132 points.** There will be an in-class midterm exam (worth 53 points) and a final exam (worth 79 points) at the assigned time during final exam week. Your calculator, text, and notes may be used during the exams.

I will compute three scores for you:

- $S_1 =$ Your total on both exams, homework and three projects.
- S_1 defined above minus the lowest of your scores on projects and homework. Thus, for example, if you submit exactly two projects, I will drop the 0 you receive on the remaining project. Call this total T_2 .

$$S_2 = [200T_2]/183$$

- S_1 defined above minus the **two** lowest of your scores on projects and homework. Thus, for example, if you submit only one project, I will drop the 0’s you receive on the remaining projects. Call this total T_3 .

$$S_3 = [200T_3]/166$$

Your course-score will be the maximum of S_1, S_2 and S_3 .

Below is the guaranteed (i.e. most difficult) relationship between course score and course grade for this class; i.e. if you score 186.0 points or more, you will receive an A for your course grade. If your course score is 120.0 or more, your course grade will be a C or better.

Course Grade:	A	AB	B	BC	C	D
Course Score:	186.0	179.0	160.0	140.0	120.0	100.0