

Determination of Course Grade

Statistics 301, Spring Semester, 2008, Lectures 1, 2 and 6

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: 24 points maximum.**
- **Projects: 36 points maximum.**
- **Exams: 140 points maximum.**
- **Extra credit: 1 point maximum.**
- **Homework: 24 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 24. Your first ‘-’ does not affect your grade, but you will lose two points for each additional ‘-’ that you receive.
- **Projects: 36 points.** Thirty-six points are possible for two projects; 18 for one. See the *Project Assignment* handout for details.
- **Exams: 140 points.** There will be two in-class midterm exams (worth 35 points each) and a final exam (worth 70 points) at the assigned time during final exam week. Your calculator, text, and notes may be used during the exams.
- **Extra credit: 1 point.** During the last two weeks of the semester, we will ask you to complete evaluations forms for the lecturer (Wardrop) and your TA. You will receive 0.5 points for each evaluation submitted, to a maximum of 1.0 point extra credit.

I will compute four scores for you:

- $S_1 = HW + P_1 + P_2 + E_1 + E_2 + E_3$
- $S_2 = 200(P_1 + P_2 + E_1 + E_2 + E_3)/176$
- $S_3 = 200(HW + P_1 + E_1 + E_2 + E_3)/182$
- $S_4 = 200(HW + P_2 + E_1 + E_2 + E_3)/182$

(HW is your homework score; P_i is your score on project i ; E_1 is your score on the first midterm; E_2 is your score on the second midterm; and E_3 is your score on the final exam.) Your before-extra-credit-course-score will be the maximum of S_1, S_2, S_3 , and S_4 . Your extra credit point (or half-point for one evaluation), if any, will be added to this maximum to yield your course score.

Below is the guaranteed (i.e. most difficult) relationship between course score and course grade for this class; i.e. if you score 184.0 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:	184.0	177.0	158.0	140.0	120.0	100.0

I reserve the right to make this correspondence more favorable for you. For example, the students in Fall 2007 had the same guarantee that you have above, but when I calculated grades I modified the cut-offs as follows: 182.0 for an A; 175.0 for an AB; 154.5 for a B; 134.0 for a BC; and 110.0 for a C. But you should not *anticipate* or *plan on* my relaxing the grading scale.