

Determination of Course Grade Statistics 301, Summer Semester, 2009, 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? (Note: The list below **is exhaustive**. There are no other ways to earn points, so please don’t ask me how you can earn extra points.)

- **Homework: 18 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 18. Your first ‘-’ does not affect your grade, but you will lose two points for each additional ‘-’ that you receive.
- **Projects: 36 points.** Eighteen points are possible for each of two projects. See the *Project Assignment* handout for details.
- **Exams: 146 points.** There will be an in-class midterm exam worth 56–60 points on Monday, June 8, and a final exam worth whatever is needed to bring the exam total to 146 (90–86 points).

Your calculator, text, and notes may be used during the exams. You may **not** use your laptop, cellphone, etc. If you are in doubt, ask me at least one day before the exam.

I will compute two scores for you:

- S_1 = Your total on both exams, homework and two projects.
- T_2 , which is defined as S_1 minus the lowest one of your three scores on projects and homework. Thus, for example, if you submit exactly one project, I will drop the 0 you receive on the remaining project; if score 0 on homework, I will drop it and you will want to submit reports for two projects.

$$S_2 = [200T_2]/182$$

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

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
Course Score:	184.0	177.0	160.0
Course Grade:	BC	C	D
Course Score:	140.0	120.0	100.0

I have found that many of my students have been confused by my notation of S_1 , T_2 and S_2 . Below is another way to think about it.

There are four broad possibilities:

1. You get ‘good scores’ on both projects and homework.
2. You get ‘good scores’ on exactly two of the following: projects and homework.
3. You get no points on exactly two of the following: projects and homework.
4. You decide to do no homework and no projects.

The entries in the table below are the number of points you will need on the exams—out of 146 possible—to obtain the given grade. NO means that the grade is impossible.

Possibility 1: You get ‘good scores’ on both projects and homework.

Grade	Points on Projs + HW			
	54	52	50	48
A	130	132	134	136
AB	123	125	127	129
B	106	108	110	112
BC	86	88	90	92
C	66	68	70	72
D	46	48	50	52

Possibility 2: You get ‘good scores’ on exactly two of the following: projects and homework.

Grade	Points on Projs + HW			
	36	35	34	32
A	131.5	132.5	133.5	135.5
AB	125.0	126.0	127.0	129.0
B	109.5	110.5	111.5	113.5
BC	91.5	92.5	93.5	95.5
C	73.0	74.0	75.0	77.0
D	55.0	56.0	57.0	59.0

Possibility 3: You get no points on exactly two of the following: projects and homework.

Grade	Points on Projs + HW			
	18	17	16	15
A	NO	NO	NO	NO
AB	143.0	144.0	145.0	146.0
B	127.5	128.5	129.5	130.5
BC	109.5	110.5	111.5	112.5
C	91.0	92.0	93.0	94.0
D	73.0	74.0	75.0	76.0

Possibility 4: You decide to do no homework and no projects.

Grade	Points on Exams
A	NO
AB	NO
B	145.5
BC	127.5
C	109.0
D	91.0