Determination of Course Grade
Statistics 371, Spring Semester, 2012,
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.)

- Points from exams:
  - Midterm Exam: 60 points maximum.
  - Final Exam: 100 points maximum.

- Extra Credit points:
  - Homework: A maximum of 3.0 points extra credit possible.
  - Project One: A maximum of 2.0 points extra credit possible.
  - Project Two: A maximum of 2.0 points extra credit possible.

Your course score will be the sum of your points on the exams and your extra credit.

Below is the guaranteed (i.e. most difficult) relationship between course score and course grade for this class; i.e. if your score is 152.0 or more, you will receive an A for your course grade. If your course score is 100.0 or more, your course grade will be a C or better.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade:</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Score:</td>
<td>152.0</td>
<td>147.0</td>
<td>134.0</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>105.0</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following Statistics Department policy, my target is to give an A to 35% of the students who complete the course. If more than 35% of the students score 152.0 or higher, then all of those students—but no others—will receive an A. If—as almost always happens—fewer than 35% of the students score 152.0 or higher, then the cut-off for an A will be reduced so that 35% of the students will receive A’s. For example, last semester, the cut-off for an A was lowered to 148.5 points, resulting in 87 out of 243 students receiving an A for the course.

Note, however, that last semester might not be a very good guide for what will happen this semester. In particular, in response to student requests I have added a second project which allows you to earn 7.0 points extra credit compared to the maximum of 5.0 points possible last semester.

**Exceptions.** As stated above your course score is:

Midterm points + Final points + Extra credit points, if any.

There are two exceptions to this formula:
1. If your course score is smaller than 134 points, I will **increase** your extra credit points 50% (rounding down, if needed) and recalculate your course score.

2. If your course score is smaller than 105 points, I will **double** your extra credit points and recalculate your course score.

I urge you to make every effort to obtain all seven points of extra credit.

**Grading of Homework.** There will be 13 homework assignments. On each homework assignment, your TA will assign you a score of 0, 1 or 2 points. You will receive 0 points if the assignment is not submitted or if it is almost entirely wrong. You will receive 1 point if your paper is better than a 0, but mostly wrong. You will receive 2 points if your paper is mostly correct. Because the TA’s will show you how to do the homework in discussion, it should be easy to obtain 2 points on each assignment.

If you want to appeal your homework score, including a 0 for not submitting it, you need to contact me via email.

Homework will be collected in lecture on Thursday. Alternatively, you may place it in your TA’s mailbox at or before 12:01 PM on the next day, Friday. Any homework submitted after 12:01 PM on the correct Friday will be considered late and you will receive a score of 0. As stated above, if you want to appeal a late homework, send me an email.

Every week on Monday or Tuesday I will email your score on the homework. (I will use a code to protect your privacy; contact me if you do NOT want me to send this info to you.) It is very important for you to check this email every week. Why? Because with 288 students homework will be lost or we will make an error and give you a 0. It is your job to tell me that we made an error within, say, a week of my sending this email. In other words, when it is May and you learn that your course grade is affected, it will be too late to tell me, “Oh, you made a mistake on my homework back in February.”

At the end of the semester, your 13 scores will be summed giving you a total homework score. You will earn extra credit points based on your total homework score, as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Homework Score</th>
<th>Extra Credit Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24–26</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22–23</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–21</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–19</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–15</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–11</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0–7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>