

Class policies and grading system

Your grade in this course will be based on frequent quizzes, one hour test during the third week, a final exam, your grade on the Monday and Wednesday labs, and attendance. Attendance will be taken in each lecture, recitation section, and lab, and affects your grade as explained below. The final exam counts for 40% of the point total of your course grade; the hour test counts for 20% and so do your quiz grades and the grade you receive for lab.

A penalty is assessed for more than 3 absences; each subsequent absence counts for 1/6th of a letter grade, up to 6 absences. (By a “letter grade” is meant the difference between an A and a B+, a B+ and a B, etc.) Conversely, fewer than 3 absences mean that borderline cases can go up to the next letter grade, with perfect attendance counting for 1/6 of a letter grade.

Students who leave class early or arrive late risk getting counted absent. If you know you will have to leave early, let the person in charge know about it at the **beginning** of class/lab.

Quizzes will be feature problems very similar to exercises either worked in class or assigned as practice problems.

If you have a privacy concern about your scores on quizzes or tests, fold the papers lengthwise and put your name on the outside, and they will be handed back to you in the same way with your scores on the inside.

Years of experience have taught me that there is no perfect way to handle absences for tests and quizzes. The following system seems to be as good as any. **Please do not ask for exceptions from it!** If I were to grant them, we would merely be moving to another imperfect system, usually inferior to the one described below.

There is no make-up test. If you are absent for the test, please give me a note explaining why, and **for you the questions on the final exam that correspond to the material covered by the test will be used to compute your grade for the test.** (Thus these questions are counted twice, but with different point values: if the questions on the final that serve for your test grade have a total value of 50 points as far as the final is concerned, they will each count double for the test grade.)

I will drop the lowest quiz grade. If you are absent for a quiz, the 0 you would have gotten for the absence will be the score dropped. The grading scale on quizzes, percentage-wise, will be at least this lenient:

Percentage
85 and up A
78 - 84 B+
70 - 77 B
63 - 69 C+
55 - 62 C
48 - 54 D+
40 - 47 D

The grading scale for the test and final exam may be a bit higher than this, but not by much. Your grade is based on the total number of points you get, not simply the

letter grades you got on various tests, etc. For an idea of how the system works, see <http://www.math.sc.edu/~nyikos/122.html/grading2.pdf>

It is for a different class, which had more tests and homework combined with quizzes for a single grade, but the idea behind it is the same.

I am generous with partial credit, so show all your work on quizzes and the hour test and the final exam.