

Class policies and grading system

Your grade in this course will be based on frequent quizzes, a midterm test during the third week, a final exam, two or three homework assignments, and attendance. Attendance will be taken in each lecture, and affects your grade as explained below. The final exam counts for 50% of the point total of your course grade; the midterm test counts for 25% and so does your combined quiz and homework grade.

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 me know about it at or before the **beginning** of class.

Quizzes will 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. For instance if the questions on the final exam that serve for your test grade have a total value of 50 points as far as the final exam is concerned, they will 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 three tests instead of one, but the idea behind it is the same.

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