

Final Grade Calculation Explanation

University of Utah

Fall 2009

As explained in the syllabus, your final grades were based upon the following breakdown:

Quizzes - 25%

Homework - 25%

Exams - 20%

Final - 30%

- **Quizzes** - Every quiz was worth 15 points, with there being 5 points of extra credit possible on the last quiz. Your quiz percentage was the average percentage of your top 8 quiz scores. There were 11 quizzes this semester, and I dropped your lowest 3. The other 8 were used to calculate your quiz average.

So, for example, if a student had the following quiz scores:

Quiz 1 - 15 Quiz 2 - 9 Quiz 3 - 10

Quiz 4 - 11 Quiz 5 - Absent Quiz 6 - 14

Quiz 7 - 10 Quiz 8 - 10 Quiz 9 - 8

Quiz 10 - 11 Quiz 11 - 20

then the absent quiz, quiz 2, and quiz 9 would be the three quizzes dropped. Note that quiz 11 is out of 20 points as there were 5 extra credit points. The student's quiz percentage would be:

$$\frac{15 + 10 + 11 + 14 + 10 + 10 + 11 + 20}{8 \times 15} \times 100\% = 84.17\%.$$

- **Homework** - On every assignment there were 40 possible points. There were 13 graded homework assignments, and 2 extra credit homework assignments. Your homework percentage was your average percentage on the 13 graded homework assignments. Also, if your score on the final exam was better than your average percentage on the homework, I replaced your homework average with your final exam score. However, when all was said and done, this only applied to a few students.

So, for example, if a student had the following homework scores:

Assignment 1 - 32 Assignment 2 - 32 Assignment 3 - 23
 Assignment 4 - 27 Assignment 5 - 21 Assignment 6 - 29
 Assignment 7 - 28 Assignment 8 - 29 Assignment 9 - 24
 Assignment 10 - 34 Assignment 11 - 28 Assignment 12 - 38
 Assignment 13 - 33

then the student's final homework percentage would be:

$$\frac{32 + 32 + 23 + 27 + 21 + 29 + 28 + 29 + 24 + 34 + 28 + 38 + 33}{13} \times 100\% = 72.69\%.$$

- **Exams** - Each exam was worth 100 points. We had 3 exams during the semester, and the top 2 were used to calculate your final exam score. Also, if your score on the final exam was better than your second best exam score, I replaced that second best exam score with your final exam score.

So, for example, if a student had the exam scores:

Exam 1 - 90 Exam 2 - 69

Exam 3 - 73 Final - 74

then the student's exam percentage would be based upon the highest score, 90, and the second highest score, which in this case would be the 74 on the final exam. So, the student's exam score would be:

$$\frac{90 + 74}{2} = 82\%$$

while the student's final exam score would, obviously, just be 74%.

- **Extra Credit** There were two extra credit assignments, assignments 14 and 15. Each of these was graded on whether or not you handed it in, and if you did hand it in you received 1.925% of extra credit.

Our hypothetical student handed in both extra credit assignments, and therefore received 3.85% extra credit.

The final grades were based upon the following grade buckets:

A	82.5% or higher.
A-	79.5% to 82.5%
B+	76.5% to 79.5%

B	72.5% to 76.5%
B-	69.5% to 72.5%
C+	66.5% to 69.5%
C	62.5% to 66.5%
C-	59.5% to 62.5%
D+	56.5% to 59.5%
D	52.5% to 56.5%
D-	49.5% to 52.5%
F	49.5% or lower.

Note that if a grade is on an endpoint of these intervals I gave the higher grade. So, if your final percentage was 62.5%, you received a C.

The final percentage of our hypothetical student would be:

$$84.17\% \times .25 + 74\% \times .25 + 82\% \times .2 + 74\% \times .3 + 3.85\% = 81.99\%$$

which would be an A-. Note that the student's homework percentage was 72.69%, while his score on the final was 74%, and so the 74% on the final replaced his homework percentage, although this minor change didn't modify his final letter grade.