

Grading Policy

There will be seven or eight homework assignments and two exams. The course grade will be determined as follows:

- (1) Both exams must be taken to pass the course.
- (2) The two exams will be averaged. This average will be adjusted based on the homework scores.

Homework

It is very important to do all the homework in a professional manner. Each assignment should be written up as a short paper; that is, it will almost always be necessary to write prose. Be sure to use complete sentences, and illustrate your points with examples. Do your best to explain your analyses as clearly as possible.

I encourage you to work in groups. However, it is essential that the results are written up independently. ***Papers that are not done independently are very obvious, and, according to Departmental and University policy, will be reported to the Dean.*** If you write sufficient prose, the difference between papers of those who work together should be substantial. You must also list the names of the people you work with on each assignment.

Homeworks will be graded with +, ✓+, ✓, ✓-, and - :

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| + Nearly perfect analysis, good, professional presentation. | Add 2% to final score |
| ✓+ Good analysis and good presentation; perhaps a few errors, and/or minor problems in presentation. | Add 1% to final score |
| ✓ Good effort; perhaps some more severe problems with the analysis, and/or more severe problems in presentation. | No effect on final score |
| ✓- Marginal; incorrect analysis and/or minimal presentation. | Subtract 1% |
| - Minimal effort or incomplete | Subtract 2% |

Late homework will be accepted up to a week after the due date, but will not receive a grade higher than ✓-.

As can be seen, the homework can have a significant effect on the final grade. For example, if someone received 8 +s, the final score would be increased by 16% (up to 100%). Thus, even a 74% (C) average on the exams would result in a course grade of **A-**. Conversely, someone who did no homework would not receive better than a **B** for the course, even if their exams averaged 100%. In practice, of course, those who do the homework consistently tend to do better on the exams.