

## Math 16A: Grading Policy

There will be two Midterms and a Final exam. these plus your discussion section grade will determine your final grade.

### *Grading method:*

Each midterm is worth 100 points, The first part of the final exam will be like a third midterm and will also be worth 100 points. The second (and last) part of the final exam will be worth 200 points.

So there is a total of 500 points available from the exams.

The final grade will be determined by a curve. The curve will aim at 15-20% A's and 25-30% B's. The curve will set the cut off for a C at 270 points. A score lower than 270 points will receive either a D or an F.

Also your GSI will assign a grade for the discussion section, using a curve with 5% each of for the grades of A+, A, A-; and 15% each for B+, B. **If a section grade is higher than the grade achieved by the exams then the final course grade will be raised**, toward the higher section grade, up to two grade levels (where one grade level is, for example, from A- to A, B+ to A-, B to B+, etc).

### *Details about the difficulty of the exams:*

The midterms:

The 2 midterms plus the 1st part of the final (the 3rd midterm) are designed to be "straightforward": they will each consist of 5 problems of very specific types. Each problem will have a clear solution procedure, and the problems will be designed to minimize extraneous difficulties. A sample version of each midterm, specifying exactly the nature of the 5 problems, will be available 2 weeks before the exam. Answers for each sample midterm will be available 1 week before the exam. After the exams, partial credit will be given when grading these problems.

The cut off for the final grade of C is 270 points, which is 90% of the points available from the 3 midterms.

The 2nd part of the final.

The 2nd part of the final will consist of 8 problems. These problems can be of any type or difficulty, but they will all be like assigned homework problems. Each of these problems will be graded with **no partial credit**, which means: except for non-serious mistakes, **the problem must be done totally correctly to earn any points**, in which case it earns the full amount of points minus points off for the non-serious mistakes.

### *Discussion section grade:*

The discussion section is like a separate course run by the GSI. The GSI will assign a grade for the discussion section based on:

- homework performance
- quizzes
- section participation

The effect of the discussion section grade on the final grade:

When a grade is raised one level it raises it at least .3 grade points; when it is raised two levels it raises it at least .6 grade points. This is out of the possible 4.0 grade points. So to raise a grade one or two levels involves at least a 7.5% or 15% increase. So:

**if you do worse than expected on the final exam, your discussion section grade could be worth up to 15% of your final grade.**