Grading Scheme

The final letter grades for MA 166 will be determined from the **Total Score**, calculated as follows:

Homework	100	pts
Quizzes	50	pts
3 Midterm Exams	$300 = 100 \times 3$	pts
Final Exam	200	pts
Total Score	650	pts

The letter grades will be made uniform across different sections based on the total possible **Common Exam Score** of 500 points.

Assignment of final grades:

The number of each letter grade A, B, C, D (with $\pm$) and F in each section will be based on the **Total Common Exam Score** (the sum of the scores of 3 midterms and the final). The cutoff points for the grades will be applied across all sections. The final grades are then determined on the **Total Score**, including the scores for the homeworks and quizzes.

EXAMPLE: Suppose the cutoffs were to be 450 for A, 370 for B, 280 for C, and 220 for D (all based on the 500 total common exam score). If a recitation section has 10 students with 450 or more on combined exams, then that section would give out 10 As. If 25 students have 370 points or more on the total exam score but less than 450, then there will be 25 Bs on that section and so on. Then all students in that section are ranked based on the total score (total common exam score +homework+quizzes) and the recitation instructor counts from the top and draws the letter grade cutoffs using the numbers determined as above. The $\pm$ within the letter category are determined (approximately) by the rule of the top 1/3 getting +, the bottom 1/3 getting $-$, and the middle no change.

If a student scores above 95% of the total score, he/she will receive an automatic A$^+$ in the course.

Remarks

- The use of the total common exam score in assigning the final grades is designed to provide uniformity across all the sections under the supervisions of different recitation instructors.
- Although letter grades are announced for each midterm, only the total of exam **raw** scores are used at the end of the semester to compute the total common exam score.
- Homework and quizzes are an extremely important part of the course. A poor score on either one of these categories can jeopardize students' effort towards a good grade, especially in borderline cases. On the other hand, homework and quizzes only contribute 150 points to the total while the exams contribute 500 points. Obviously a poor performance on the exams will most likely not be compensated by good scores on homework and quizzes.