How Grades are Computed

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The following grading policies are crafted to close previous loopholes, **work in favor of real students**, and make it harder for fake students to slip by. There are some people masquerading as students to cloak an ulterior agenda either for being in the United States or for some other reasons. I can not stop ulterior agendas but I can make them more difficult. Grading is generally as follows but may be altered as appropriate depending on the class situation to alleviate some technicality from affecting the correct grade.

Raw Calculation: Grades are initially calculated using the weighting factors on the course syllabus. Lab must be passed in order to pass the course. This applies to EE351, EE431 and EE531.

Low Test Score Forgiveness: If the score on the final is higher than the average of Test 1 and Test 2 then the final may count more (and the two tests proportionately less). This gives a student the opportunity to make up for past errors. I try to make it always numerically possible to obtain a passing or even a good grade for the course. The higher weighting of the final is determined at final grade calculation based on the overall results of the class.

Scaling: I may add several points to the final computed numerical grade of everyone in the class to adjust for tests being either longer or harder than intended. Historically, this has been between 0 and 7 points. In short, I am not going to allow some technicality to arbitrarily make your grade lower than it should be. I only scale once at the end of the course as needed.

The grading process: Some students might have a misconception about final grades. All I can do is report the grade you earned. I am not allowed to give, assign, influence, etc. your grade in any way other than scaling adjustments that apply equally to all. There are always cases where I know that a student is making a good effort and perhaps "deserves" an 'A' but their average is a 'B'. I have to report the 'B' no matter how favorably impressed I am with the student. There are other cases where a student barely passes with a 'D' and I know that they really do not deserve to pass. In those cases I have to report the 'D' my opinion notwithstanding.

I always do a reality check for everyone to be sure that no error was made entering information into the computer. I look especially close when the computed grade is low. The probability is extremely small that a student would receive a low grade in error. If you receive a low grade then it is correct. I will investigate if you ask but in over twenty years of teaching there has only been one case where a grade had to be revised upwards.