

Grade Ranges and Grading Policies

The ranges for letter grades are as follows:

A+	98 and above*	A	93 to 97.99	A-	90 to 92.99
B+	88 to 89.99	B	83 to 87.99	B-	80 to 82.99
C+	78 to 79.99	C	73 to 77.99	C-	70 to 72.99
D	60 to 69.99	F	Below 60		

**In order to earn an A+ for the course you must have scored in the A+ range on each exam that is used to calculate the final grade and on the written assignment, as well as completing the experimental participation requirement. Even if your average from the 3 exams applied to your grade is above 98%, if one of the exams is below 98% you will receive an A for the course and not an A+.*

FAQs

~ How are class grades calculated?

Your lowest exam score is dropped, and each of the remaining three exams is worth 30% of the final grade. The written assignment is worth 5% of the final grade. Experimental participation is worth 5% of the final grade. (NOTE: Please remember that you are **required** to take all three midterm exams and **there are no make-up exams**. **Absences must be excused** in advance by Prof. Taylor. See the Exam Policies file for more details on this. DO NOT skip taking a midterm or you risk being dropped from the course.)

~Do you curve?

I do not curve individual exam grades, nor do I determine any kind of grade curve until the final exam is completed and the course points have been calculated for the entire class. After the final exam I will calculate your course points, dropping your lowest exam score. I will then look at the distribution of grades based on the ranges presented above. If the distribution looks typical for this course, there will not be a curve. If there are too many "high grades" there will be no adjustment to the grade ranges - I'd truly be thrilled if everyone earned an A+!! If there seem to be a disproportionate number of low grades, I will adjust the ranges accordingly. Typically, about 65% of students earn As and Bs in this course.

~I think there is a grading error on my midterm. What should I do?

Please check your answers against your notes and the lecture notes after each exam and double check that your score was accurately added across the different sections. If there is an error or discrepancy you must resolve it before the next midterm exam. Bring the exam to office hours to discuss the issue with one of the TAs or with Prof. Taylor. Prof. Taylor has the final decision on any grading changes. **Any grading issues must be resolved before the next midterm**. If you feel something has been graded too harshly, or that you deserved more credit for an answer you must bring that to Prof. Taylor's attention as soon as possible.

~ I'm so close to the next grade, is there anything I can do for extra credit?

The University specifically asks that professors NOT offer this kind of option. I do not offer any extra credit. This also means that I will not reevaluate exam grades from the first two exams at the end of the semester (see above).

~My course grade is wrong. What should I do?

I try to be as careful as possible but sadly, I've been known to make a transposition error when recording grades on SSOL. If your grade based on course points and these grade ranges does not match the grade on your transcript please contact Prof. Taylor as soon as possible so that the correction can be submitted to the Dean's office for approval.

~I really like Psychology but didn't get an A in this course. Should I reconsider majoring in Psychology?

Many people (myself included) find introductory courses to be the more difficult than advanced courses. Once you have a knowledge base, it's easier to build upon that knowledge than it is to start from scratch. Also, advanced courses give you the opportunity to choose the topics that are most interesting to you. For example, if you are really interested in social psychology, but not so much in animal behavior you can choose your courses to focus on your interests. A grade below an A in an introductory course doesn't mean that you can't go on and do very well in the advanced courses (and I know this from personal experience!) Don't let a less-than-perfect grade in this course keep you from pursuing other courses in Psychology.