Grading and Help Sessions

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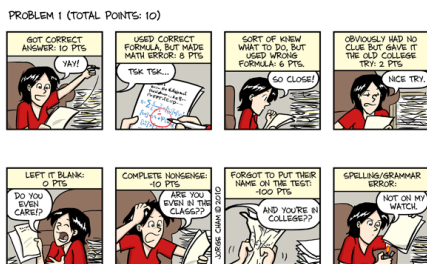 - Whose definition of "Help"?
  - Being interactive

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Grading

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Grading: Rules

- FERPA (ONLY email grades using official department/university email)
- Grading should average about 10 hours/week
- Papers should be graded within 1 week of due date

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Grading: Preparation

Before you start to grade:

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Grading: Preparation

Before you start to grade:
- Have detailed solutions with a rubric (partial credit assignment)
- Glance at a few papers to make sure solution is correct
- If possible, anticipate common mistakes and decide partial credit accordingly

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Grading: Being Consistent

- Grade one problem at a time
- When you find an unexpected mistake, determine partial credit and *make a note in your rubric*
- Don't be influenced by appearance
- Try to avoid looking at students' names

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Grading: Being Consistent

(Strongly recommended…)
- Do not deduct maximum points for one early mistake; verify the remaining steps follow logically.
- Points earned vs. Points deducted-try to clearly indicate the reason in either case
- Randomly re-order papers after each problem
- Use TAMU Google Drive spreadsheet or access to Canvas/eCampus to send grades

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Grading: Using GradeScope

- Preliminaries:
  - Instructor creates course
  - Students register for course via Entry Code
  - TA/Grader added to course (has same privileges as Instructor)
  - In most cases, students upload their work to GradeScope (indicating which work goes with which problem)

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Grading: Using GradeScope

- Advantages of using GradeScope
  - Randomizes papers for you, organized by problem
  - After creating a deduction feedback, one-click applies it to similar mistakes
  - Changed mind about # of points to deduct? Applies corrections retroactively
  - May be able to group similar work together for "at once" feedback.

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Grading: Giving Feedback

- Comments OK, but don't overdo it ("sea of red": NOT an issue in GradeScope)
- Good to indicate minor errors (negative signs, mis-copied step, etc.)
- Frequent mistakes should be noted for the professor
- Ecampus allows you to write on PDFs in the Grade Center (not sure about Canvas)

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Help Sessions: Preparation

- Math Learning Center provides room (in-person or Zoom)
- Responsible for making sure your shift is covered (get a substitute if needed!)
- Make sure you are prepared for upcoming topics: see course homepage and/or an instructor's homepage for schedule
- See Sherry or Ana-Rose in 305 for textbook if available (and a tablet if doing virtual HS)

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Help Sessions: Whose definition of "Help"?

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Help Sessions: Whose definition of "Help"?

• Your goal: assist them in finding their mistakes and learning the material

• Their goal (usually): get the answers to the homework!

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Help Sessions: Whose definition of "Help"?

"Give someone a fish, and you feed them for a day. Teach them to fish, and you feed them for a lifetime."
                    --Chinese proverb

How do you help without just being a "solution manual"?

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Help Sessions: Being Interactive

• KEY: Answer a question with a question!
  – "How do I start?" "What does this
  – word/statement tell you?"
  – "Where is my mistake?" "How did you get from this statement to the next one."
• Give them time to respond!
• You do not have to stay with the student until they finish the problem: let them work on it while you help others.

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Help Sessions: Being Interactive

• Other tips/suggestions
  – If no one is asking questions, check on them periodically (in-person: walk around room; Zoom: encourage questions)
  – If several students have a similar question, put key points/ideas on the board. (Use Whiteboard feature or go to Breakout Room in Zoom)
  – Virtual HS: recommend "two-device" system (laptop for chat/Breakout Rooms, tablet for screenshare/writing)

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Questions?

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