

## Policy on Grade Appeals

### I. INTRODUCTION

It is your right to ask for a grade appeal. At the same time, I take grading very seriously. Please, read carefully my policy on grade appeals or “re-grading”.

### II. FOLLOW THE NEXT STEPS

1. **Read my comments carefully** and also read the question you were asked.
2. **See if my comments do not make sense to you** If you feel that there are any inconsistencies, such as, (1) I made a mistake when grading you (i.e. *“I said you were wrong, but you believe you are right”*) or (2) I summed the points incorrectly, write down a “written defense” explaining to me all these details.
3. **Written Defense** In your document, write down a short paragraph for each inconsistency you found explaining to me why I am wrong. **You have to support your arguments using references either from the class book(s) or course materials.** For example, if I thought you defined something incorrectly in your test, find the citation (with the exact page) from the course text(s) and show me that you followed that definition. Of course, **it does not need to be literal to be correct.** Repeat this process for each inconsistency you find. Email me your “written defense”. I will process this information as soon as possible and I will get back to you in a timely fashion so we can arrange a meeting.
4. **Meeting** We meet only **after** you send me your “written defense”. That would allow me to assess in advance the concrete evidence of your counterarguments. When we meet, we go over your test **and** your “written defense”.
5. **Outcomes** As this re-grading process requires you to elaborate on concrete arguments in your defense, you may have two possible outcomes: you may either have a better grade or stay with the same grade.
6. **Avoid** arguments such as *I did a very good job in the midterm, consequently I should have a better grade in the final.* This is a fallacy and I do not consider it as a valid argument because both are different items. In the same line, avoid arguments of the type *I participated*

*in class, studied for 3 weeks in a row, and I consider that I should have an A.* This argument is not a valid argument because I am not grading how hard you worked. What I grade is your performance in the final, i.e. the quality of your written arguments in the final, nothing else. Again, please, stick to the facts and build a written defense of your written arguments. See “Written Defense” above.