The SUMO Speaker Series for Undergraduates
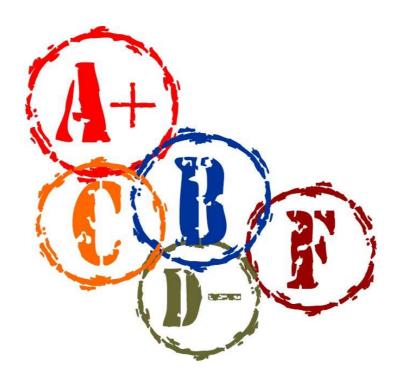## Thursday, September 26th
4:15-5:05, room 380C
(Food Provided)

Dropping Lowest Grades
Professor Daniel Kane

ABSTRACT:

A number of classes say that they will ignore a few of your lowest scoring assignments when considering final grades. When all assignments are worth the same number of points, it is reasonably clear what it meant by this, but when some are worth different numbers of points there are many possible interpretations. Drop the assignments on which you got the smallest percent right? Smallest total number of points? Most points off? Or, do they mean to drop the collection of assignments that give you the largest possible final grade? We consider what happens when the last of these conditions is used and note that it exhibits several unintuitive properties. Eventually, we discover a nice way of thinking about these issues and find an efficient algorithm for determining which assignments to drop in order to obtain the highest final grade.

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