









# choose your grading!

## ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT FOR THE SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED IN ODTUCLASS FOR PHYS332

In previous semesters in various courses, I have followed a non-traditional grading scheme and I have received ample feedback, both from students and staff, that a traditional approach may be preferable. The feedback wasn't unanimous and I have not really received a *sufficiently* convincing argument undermining my grading strategy, hence I still advocate it.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, for this course in this semester, I am leaving the choice up to the students.

Non-traditional	Traditional
Four exams (3 midterms, 1 final) of equal weight: students are scored based on their highest three exams	 Three exams (2 midterms, 1 final) of equal weight: students are scored based on all three exams
Each exam contains 3–5 questions, most questions with several parts	 Each exam contains 3–5 questions, some questions might have parts
Questions are multiple-choice	 Questions are classical (open-ended)
I will prepare questions: they may or may not be based on a question from the textbook, but I will phrase them in my own style	 All questions will be copied from a textbook: <sup>2</sup> <i>they will be presented in the exam in the exact wording that they were given in the book</i>
Students will be provided <i>the cheat-sheet</i> <sup>5</sup> during the exam; the questions might also include certain integrals or hints as deemed helpful	 The exams are closed-book: cheat-sheet will not be available, and students will be provided only what is given in the question in the textbook
An exam question might reappear in a follow-up exam in a modified fashion	 No two questions in any two exams will be the same
No partial credit is given	 <i>Any logically and mathematically and physically correct step towards the actual solution</i> is eligible for partial credit
Exams will be graded and available for regrade requests on Gradescope <i>within three days after the exam</i>	 Exams will be graded and available for regrade requests on Gradescope <i>within three weeks after the exam</i>

<sup>1</sup>To check out why I advocate the non-traditional system, please read this document:  
[https://soneralbayrak.com/teaching/files/Teaching\\_methodology.pdf](https://soneralbayrak.com/teaching/files/Teaching_methodology.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>I will choose the questions either from Griffiths<sup>3</sup> or Purcell & Morin,<sup>4</sup> since both of these are internationally used undergraduate EMT books. Although given for supplementary reading in the syllabus, I will *not* choose a question from Zangwill or Jackson as they are more suited for advanced undergraduate or graduate students.

<sup>3</sup>This refers to any edition of the book "Introduction to Electrodynamics" by Griffiths.

<sup>4</sup>This refers to any edition of the book "Electricity and Magnetism" by Purcell & Morin.

<sup>5</sup>The current version of this document is available here: [https://soneralbayrak.com/teaching/files/formula\\_sheet.pdf](https://soneralbayrak.com/teaching/files/formula_sheet.pdf)