
15-359: Probability and Computing

Fall 2008

COURSE POLICIES

1 Grading Policies

40% Homework. There will be a weekly homework, due each Thursday — about 12 in all. Please plan ahead. The *one* lowest homework grade will be dropped.

10% Quizzes. We will have an in-class 10-minute quiz every Tuesday at the start of class. Please come precisely on time, as the quiz will be due at 10:40. These quizzes are meant to help provide a check for whether you're following and understanding the lectures. The *two* lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

20% Midterm. We will have an in-class midterm. The *tentative* date is Thursday, Oct. 6.

20% Final. There will be a final during finals week.

10% Class Participation. We expect you to be thinking during class and to be vocal about your thoughts.

2 Sickness/missed time

We are purposely dropping the lowest homework grade and two lowest quiz grades, so that the occasional absence won't hurt you. There will be *no* makeup quizzes or makeup homeworks, so please save up these freebies for when you're actually sick and can't make it to class.

3 Homework extensions/grading

All homeworks will be due on Thursdays *at the beginning of class*. If your homework is late, you need to get it to the TA yourself. We do not want you to skip class to work on homework! Therefore, we have the following late policy. Your homework will not be considered late if all of the following hold:

- *At the beginning* of Thursday's class, you alert the appropriate TA that you will be handing in the homework by 2pm.
- *You attend all of Thursday's class.*
- You get the homework to the appropriate TA by Thursday 2pm.

Otherwise, your homework is considered late. If you get your late homework to the TA by the end of Thursday, this will cost you 20% of the grade. If you get your late homework to the TA by Friday at 4:30pm, this will cost you 50% of the grade. After Friday 4:30pm, your late homework will be given a grade of 0.

The TAs rule when it comes to grading homework; their decisions are final. However, they will be available to listen to your explanations.

4 Collaboration/Cheating Policy

Researchers collaborate all the time, but they cite each other. You are free to collaborate on the homeworks in *small groups*. However, you must note all the people you worked with on your homework. Further, all answers must be written up by yourself, alone, in your own words. Finally, you may *not* search for homework solutions on the web. You *may* search for them in physical books such as those found in the library. All quizzes and exams will, of course, be individual work.