

Homework #9: Calculate Your Grade
Due in class Thursday, November 3

Log into Blackboard for access to your grades. Now is a good time to check that your scores on assignments that have been handed back match what I've entered on Blackboard.

Step 1: Compile all of your homework, MA, lab, reading quiz, exam scores

	Your score	Points Available	Percent*
Homework 1		15	
Homework 2		56	
Homework 3		33	
Homework 4		55	
Homework 5		30	
Homework 6		80	
Homework 7		50	
Homework 8		50	

	Your score (percentage)
MA 1	
MA 2	
MA 3	
MA 4	
MA 5	
MA 6	
MA 7	
MA 8	

*compute this by dividing column 2 by column 3 and multiplying by 100

	Your score	Points Available	Percent
Nature of Science		40	
Math and Lab Skills		25	
Planet Research		25	
Size and Scale		25	
Impact Cratering		70	
Atmospheric Retention		100	
Jupiter's Moons		100	

	Your score	Points Available	Percent
RQ #1		20	
RQ #2		25	
RQ #3		20	

Midterm Score: _____%

Step 2: Calculate Your Homework Grade

Recall that I will be dropping your TWO lowest homework assignments, which include the weekly homeworks and the mastering astronomy assignments. Using the percentages column (which you should have filled in for each assignment, reading quiz and lab by following the instructions in the footnote on page 1), **find your two lowest assignments and cross them off.**

Now **add up all of your remaining percentages** from the weekly homework and mastering astronomy tables. By doing this, you are essentially scaling all of your homeworks to the same value (100 points).

Total Homework Points: _____

Because you've dropped your two lowest scores, the total available "points" are 1400. Calculate your percentage homework score by dividing your total homework points by 1400 and then multiplying by 100 (to turn your decimal into a percentage).

Total Homework Percentage: _____

Step 3: Calculate your Reading Quiz Score

Recall that I will be dropping your lowest reading quiz score as well. Cross off your lowest percentage score on the reading quizzes and then add up your percentages to get your total RQ points:

Total Reading Quiz Points: _____

With one score dropped, the total available reading quiz points are 200. Calculate the percentage of reading quiz points you've received:

Total Reading Quiz Percentage: _____

Step 4: Calculate Your Lab Grade

NONE of your lab grades will be dropped. Add up all of your percentages from the lab table to get your total points.

Total Lab Points: _____

Divide this score by the total points available (700) and multiply by 100 to get your Lab Percentage.

Total Lab Percentage: _____

Step 4: Estimate Your Participation Grade

5% of your participation grade is based on class attendance and participation, according to my estimate of your **attendance, timeliness, and participation** during class (note that this does not just mean do you answer questions aloud during class – I realize that some people aren't comfortable doing so – but whether you are engaged, off of your cell phone and computer, participating during pair activities and labs, completing lecture tutorials and voting questions when asked). I am aided in this by the pair activities that you complete in class, which give me a record of who has been attending.

On a scale of 1 to 100, and being honest with yourself, what do you feel you deserve for an attendance, timeliness and participation grade?

_____/15

3.3% is based on how you did facilitating the reading quiz discussion. If you were there and prepared to lead the discussion for your reading quiz, you will get all of the points in this section, but we are going to ignore it for now...

The remaining 3.3% is based on your participation in the reading quiz discussions.

On a scale of 1 to 10, and being honest with yourself, what do you feel you deserve for a discussion participation grade?

____/10

You should have the hang of this by now. Add your points in the two blanks and divide them by 25 (the total available), then multiply by 100 to get your participation percentage. Fill this in in the blank below.

Participation Percentage: _____

Step 5: Calculate Your Current Grade

In the table below, fill in the total percentages you received in each category. The Percent of your semester grade that each category is worth is given in the table in decimal form. To calculate the “You Receive” column, multiply the second and third columns together.

Your Percentages	Percent You Received	Percent of Total Grade	You Receive
Homework		.3	
Reading Quizzes		.033	
Labs		.25	
Participation		.083	
Midterm		.10	

Add these “you received” scores together and divide them by 76.6, then multiply by 100 to get a percentage. This represents your current grade.

_____ / 76.6 = _____ %

Step 6: Contemplate

If you obtain the following overall percentage of available points, you will be guaranteed each grade in this course. These numbers may be lowered when I compute final grades, but they will not be raised (in other words, based on the class distribution, I may decide that anyone receiving 88% and above (rather than 90%) will receive an A, but lowering of these cutoffs is NOT guaranteed)

A: 90%

B: 80%

C: 70%

D: 60%

F: Below 60%

Keep in mind that there are still homeworks, labs and reading quizzes coming up (which can EITHER raise OR lower your score in each category) and that **your final will count for 15% of your grade, and your semester observing project will count for 5% of your grade**. Also, keep in mind that I will be the one determining your final participation grade.

Finally, if you are not happy with the grade that you just computed THERE IS STILL TIME to complete extra credit assignments. See the "Extra Credit Options" on the course site for more details (also handed out on the first day of class). They are worth half of a homework score apiece and you may complete up to three of them.

Step 7: Set a Goal

What are you going to do to raise or maintain your current grade in this course? Write it down!