

# ME 521 Grades

Prepared by Professor J. M. Cimbala, Penn State University. Latest revision: 11 July 2017

## General Information

- The grades for this course are available on Penn State's <http://canvas.psu.edu/>.
- Grades are updated approximately weekly during the semester.
- Professor Cimbala grades all homework and exams. If you have questions about grading, please see him.

## Grading Scale

In the "old days," the grading scale was much simpler – 90% was an A, 80% was a B, 70% was a C, and 60% was a D. When Penn State adopted the plus/minus grading system several years ago, Professor Cimbala decided to keep the same scale as the previous one, but simply [interpolated linearly for the plus and minus grades](#). Thus, this is the standard grading cut-off scale that Professor Cimbala has adopted for all his courses:

Cut-off score (%)	Letter grade
90.00	A
86.66	A-
83.33	B+
80.00	B
76.66	B-
73.33	C+
70.00	C
60.00	D
0.00	F

This grading scale is *not* open to negotiation. If you end up just below one of the cut-offs, Professor Cimbala will look very carefully at your final exam to see if the grading was possibly too strict. If so, he may be able to push you to the higher grade. If not, nothing can be done to change your grade. It is inevitable that someone is always just below the borderline.

## Grade Calculator

You can calculate your course grade using the following formula, where all homework and exam scores are reported as 0 to 100 points. The final score then ranges from 0 to 100 points.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Score} &= [(\text{sum of all homework scores})/(\text{number of homeworks})]*0.20 \\ &+ (\text{Midterm 1 grade})*0.25 \\ &+ (\text{Midterm 2 grade})*0.25 \\ &+ (\text{Final exam grade})*0.30 \end{aligned}$$

*Note:* There will be 10 homework assignments. Thus,

- Each homework set counts as  $20/10 = 2\%$  of your final course grade.
- Each midterm counts as 25% of your final course grade.
- The final exam counts as 30% of your final course grade.