

Curve Spring 2022

This curve is based on the CUMULATIVE SCORES so far in the course, specifically the proportion you have earned so far of available points. The available points so far include 5 quizzes and the midterm, each weighted as described on the syllabus. Altogether these add up to 42.5% of the points for the course.

We first compute your percent cumulative score. For example if you got 35 points so far out of 42.5, that translates to a 82.4%.

We then adjust the scores to be relative to the highest cumulative score in the class, which was 98.7%. So basically the the highest score is now 100%, and everyone gets a 1.3% bump.

We then add an additional “bump” of 5 percentage points in order to achieve a reasonable grade distribution. The result is your **bumped cumulative score**, which you can see on Canvas.

You can then interpret your bumped score in terms of the traditional categories of 90+ = A, 80+ = B/B+, 70+ = C/C+, etc. Anything near 60 or below is a sign that you have to dramatically change your approach to the course if you want to do well.

What you will find on Canvas:

1. Midterm score: This is your raw score **out of 45**.
2. Bumped cumulative score.
3. Estimated letter grade. This your bumped cumulative score interpreted as a letter grade via the usual scale.

Your estimated letter grade should be understood as a **ROUGH ESTIMATE** of how your cumulative score so far translates to letter grade. The real curve for the course will be determined after the final exam; this is just an estimate of what that curve will look like. It is NOT a real assignment of letter grades, just our best guess so far of what your numeric score means.

However past experience suggests it is a good estimate of how you are doing. If you do better during the second half of the course, your letter grade can be expected to go up. If you do worse, it might go down. Keep up your existing work habits, and it will probably stay the same.