

Economics 160 Christopher Hanes
Answers to frequently asked questions about exams and grading

What does the final cover?

All of the material on the outline, up to the point where class ended on Friday.

Does it concentrate on material in the last few weeks of the class?

No.

How should I study for the final?

Do not look at the old exams until you have almost finished studying. Use the old exams as a diagnostic to find gaps in the studying you have already done. Use the textbook as well as your notes. Use the outline to match up the textbook to your notes.

How do you come up with my grade for the course?

See the syllabus.

But exactly how do you weight the midterm and exam grades to get the "test" portion of the grade?

For each exam I calculate the mean absolute deviation of numerical grades from the median grade on that exam. Call this "MAD." The test portion of the grade is:

$$\frac{1}{2} (1/\text{MAD}_{\text{midterm1}}) * \text{Midterm 1 score} + \frac{1}{2} (1/\text{MAD}_{\text{midterm2}}) * \text{Midterm2 score} + (1/\text{MAD}_{\text{final}}) * \text{Final score}$$

If my course grade turns out to be lower than I want it to be, can I hand in some extra credit work to raise it?

Seriously? No.

My grade was brought down because you marked me as missing some clicker quizzes before the first midterm/second midterm. But I didn't miss those quizzes. Will you change my grade?

No. After the first and second midterms, I posted the clicker records so that you could check them. It's too late now.

I missed clicker quizzes because my clicker was broken/my car broke down/I was being probed by space aliens. Will you change my grade?

No. I know things like that can happen. That's why you get to miss up to two quizzes with no effect on your grade.