

Dylan Winter
E Period
3/21/06

CALCULATING YOUR OWN GRADES CAN BE FUN!

(Sung to no tune in particular)

When trying to calculate their own grades in order to check for any mistakes made by the teacher, students will often end up getting their calculations hideously mixed up and will end up with a hideously wrong answer. The most immediate solution to this is to never question your instructors by simple logic of they know far more than you and are therefore to go unquestioned by the simpleton masses of which you may or may not be a member. If you believe you have the intellect required to correctly process this essay, feel free to press on; you just may be able to comprehend the wealth of information I will now lay at your feet.

Now then, to calculate your score in Mr. Menin's grading system of unearthly might and logic, one must first know the percent value of all grading areas (*e.g. tests, quizzes, homework, labs, etc.*). You must add up the total possible percent value of all areas in which you are graded, such that any areas where you have not been graded are excluded from the final percent. Write down or remember this number. For the sake of example, we'll just say that the total possible percentage for your grade this quarter is 87%, because labs were worth a theoretical 13% and you have not yet had the opportunity to proudly pass in a complete and well-written lab report to a smiling and happy Mr. Menin as of quite yet.

Now one must find the total percent for which you will be receiving credit. Again, we will arbitrarily assume a random assortment of percent values for a varied list of grading areas. As such, now assume that:

- Homework is 10%
- Tests are 20%
- Quizzes are 20%
- Unannounced quizzes are 20%
- Special project #1 is worth 17%

Of course, these values are all complete fabrications and Mr. Menin uses a far more balanced and well-prepared system, but these quantities will suffice to make an easy to follow and readily understood model. Now you must calculate all your grades in each particular category.

The way one goes about this is to first take the percent grade out of one hundred for each individual category. To do this, divide your grade by the total possible grade and multiply the result by 100. Once you have your grade, you must find the percent of the total possible percent to which you are credited. So if you have a grade of 83% in homework, you would divide the percent you got (83) by the total possible (10). The

answer is 8.3. This is how much percent you should add together with other percents calculated from other grades. The sum of all these percents will add up to yet another percent, which should be divided by the total possible percent. So after you have calculated and added together all your individual grades, your current average is 75%. Before you go into a flustered grade-related frenzy, be assured that this is not your final grade. No, you must divide this by 87%. So, you divide the total you got (75) by the possible total (87) to get an answer of .86. Multiply this by 100 to get your final answer of 86%. And lo! You find that you are not a C student, but an entirely average B student! Rejoice and dance in the streets! Scream from the rooftops that you now know how to calculate your own grades!