

Grading:

The raw scores earned on each of the exams in this course will be converted to Standard T-Scores. The Standard T-Score is computed as follows:

$$T = [(x-X/s) \cdot 10] + 74$$

where:

x = your raw test score

X = the class mean score = $\Sigma x/N$

N = number of test scores

σ = standard deviation = $[\Sigma (x-X)^2/(N-1)]^{1/2}$

Using Standard T-Scores allows an effective averaging of grades without introducing a bias in favor of tests with the greatest standard deviations. Since it is based on a normal (Gaussian) distribution, it generally represents the fairest way of grading. (Nearly all national exams such as the SAT, MCAT, and GRE use a similar form of Standard T-Scores)

Your final course grade will be calculated as 30% of your best midterm T-score, 30% of your second best midterm T-score and 40% of your final exam T-score. There will be three midterms during the semester, so this means that your lowest midterm exam T-score will be dropped OR you will be able to miss one midterm for any reason with no penalty.* The following conversion table will be used to calculate final course grades:

T-Score.....Letter Grade

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 93.0000 < T |A |
| 90.0000 < T < 93.0000 |A- |
| 87.0000 < T < 90.0000 |B+ |
| 83.0000 < T < 87.0000 |B |
| 80.0000 < T < 83.0000 |B- |
| 77.0000 < T < 80.0000 |C+ |
| 73.0000 < T < 77.0000 |C |
| 70.0000 < T < 73.0000 |C- |
| 67.0000 < T < 70.0000 |D+ |
| 63.0000 < T < 67.0000 |D |
| 60.0000 < T < 63.0000 |D- |
| T < 60.0000 |F |

*Missing two midterms or the final exam without a documented, valid excuse will result in a failing grade.

NOTE: WE DO NOT ROUND SCORES. AN 89.92 IS ENTERED AS 89.92, NOT 90.00.

*****Important Notice***** In general, using T-scores increases everyone's grades compared to using absolute percentages. Nevertheless, we will keep track of your percentage scores on every test. If the percentage scores are ever higher than your T-score, we will use the percentage score for your course grade calculation. Thus, if everyone does extremely well in this course, no grade will be lowered by using a curving system!

Your homework grades will be added to the better of your T-score or percentage score for each exam and that total is the score we will record for your official exam score.

Taken together, the mid-term examinations will count for 55% of the final course grade. Plan NOW to be present for these exams! During the semester, however, one exam may be missed for any reason whatsoever without penalty. If you take all three exams, we will automatically drop your lowest grade. Failure to take two mid-term exams will result in an automatic F (or, in the case of justifiable excuse, an X) being assigned in 320M/328M. It is particularly important that students avoid any potential conflicts between these scheduled evening exams and any other activities such as laboratory classes. If unavoidable conflicts exist, please come see me immediately. Please note, I am sorry for any inconvenience these out of class two-hour exams might cause, but we do things this way for your own protection because:

- 1) We can use rooms large enough to ensure no cheating is taking place during the exam.
- 2) The two-hour format means we can administer tests that are comprehensive, yet do not have unreasonable time limits. Thus, you will have a chance to show what you know, not just how fast you can write.

Note that for the midterm exam grade that is dropped, the homework points for the weeks leading up to that exam do not count for any other exams. Also, for any exam for which you arrive after the official start time, you will only be allowed to enter the exam room if not a single student has already finished and left. BE ON TIME!!

The final exam, accounting for 40% of the course grade, will be comprehensive in its coverage of the material presented in Chemistry 320M/328M. There will be no make-up exam for the final and it may not be taken at an alternative time for any reason. Specifically, failure to take the final exam at the scheduled time and place without an approved, documented excuse will automatically result in a failing grade being assigned for 320M/328M. A documented, excused absence at the final will result in an Incomplete being assigned for the course. An example of a documented, excused absence is a note from a doctor that states you are physically UNABLE to attend the final. Simply not feeling your best is NOT considered to be an excused absence, as we all have days in which we are not feeling well but must take care of our responsibilities anyway. If you are up and walking around campus on the day of the final, you must take it. NO EXCEPTIONS.

At the end of the semester, your cumulative electronic reading quiz grade will be included as the final 5% of your final grade.

Final grade calculation: 55% is the top two midterm exam grades (including homework problem set points), 40% is your final exam score and the final 5% is your cumulative electronic reading quiz grade.

Academic Dishonesty:

Honor Code "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."

University Code of Conduct "The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."

Any violation of the above Honor Code that occurs during an exam or in the regrading process will result in a 0 being assigned for that exam and the student involved will be formally reported to the Dean of Students, where they will be subject to additional penalties or actions. The exam with the 0 will be automatically counted in the final grade calculation at the end of the semester. To guard against altered exams being submitted for a regrade, we routinely copy a large number of exams following grading but prior to handing them back.

Regrades:

Exams can be turned in for regrades as long as they were taken in permanent ink, not pencil or erasable ink. Regrades must be submitted within 7 days after the exam is handed back. They can be submitted in the labeled class slot adjacent to WEL 2.212 or you can hand the exam to myself or one of the TA's. You must indicate what problems need to be regraded, and provide a brief explanation for your concern. The entire exam will be regraded.

Exam rules:

No notes or books are allowed used during the exams. Because of recent incidents, you will not be allowed to interact with your cell phone in any way during exams. No exceptions. Turn them off, or leave them at home. ***Interacting with a cell phone during an exam will be considered a violation of the Honor Code and will result in a 0 being recorded for your grade on the exam, no matter what you were actually doing with the phone.***