Notes about Grading

The syllabus provides the overall percentage breakdown of how the course grade is computed. For each of those pieces, there will be a numerical score, normalized from total numbers of points that can be arbitrary.

(Canvas will usually record only the point-totals... e.g., Homework 1 is graded with a total of 30 points, because I like to have each numbered problem be worth 10 points. If a future homework has 4 or 5 numbered problems, it will be graded with totals of 40 or 50 points, respectively. However, taken together, all six homework sets are worth 50% of the course grade... and I want to weight each of them equally. Thus, each homework will be normalized from its varied point-total to a contribution of 8.333% toward the course grade.)

At the end of the semester, these numerical scores will be converted into letter grades (see below).

Right *before* the end of the semester, I'll be adding some number of extra (percentage) points to everyone's course totals. This is meant to account for the overall challenge level of the course. For example, some problems were honed from ones used in earlier courses, but some have been crafted for the first time. Thus, these extra points are a kind of compensation for you being "guinea pigs" on the brand-new subset of the coursework. Although this is not really a "curve" (because it doesn't depend on the relative distribution of grades) it does attempt to provide a corrective to aspects that may have been overly difficult. The total number of percentage points to be added is not likely to be larger than 10.

Once the extra points have been added, the conversion to letter grades will be done using the following system:

	A (93 and up)	**A–** (90 to 93)
B+ (87 to 90)	**B** (83 to 87)	**B–** (80 to 83)
C+ (77 to 80)	**C** (73 to 77)	**C–** (70 to 73)
D+ (67 to 70)	**D** (63 to 67)	**D–** (60 to 63)
F (below 60)		

Note that, for some reason, CU does not use the **A+** grade.

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Please always feel free to email, or drop by office hours, or just chat informally after class, if you have any questions.