

Understanding Your Marks in COMS 210

This course uses a combination of letter grades and numerical grades on assignments.

Numerical Grades translate into letter grades according to the percentiles given in the McGill scale:

A	85+
A-	80-84
B+	75-79
B	70-74
B-	65-69
C+	60-64
C	55-59
D	50-54
F	49-

Your semester grade will be given in the form of a percentage of possible points to two decimal points (e.g., “76.25”) and the number will be converted into a letter according to this scale.

Pop Quiz Answers

- 100: Correct.
- 50: Clearly used material that shows you did the reading, but doesn't correctly answer the question.
- 10: Thanks for playing.
- 0: Dude, where's my car?

We will drop your two lowest pop quiz marks, and pop quizzes account for 5% of your semester grade.

Multiple Choice Answers

For the final, your multiple choice grade is simply the percentage of questions you answered correctly, matched to McGill's numerical grading scale above. Grades will not be curved down under any circumstance. Please note that there is a “no bum question policy” in effect that we will discuss later in the term.

Conference Papers and Analytical Papers

Your papers will be graded according to a 4x3 grid (available elsewhere on the course website). Your 3 grades are summed and averaged, and there is a possibility for some extra credit if you excel in a particular area. Note that the grades are entered numerically and the letters on the grid are a guideline only.

Letter Grades for Participation: You will receive a single, holistic letter grade for participation in this class. The letter grade will then be translated back into a numerical grade for the purposes of calculating your semester grade according to the following formula:

A+	100
A	85
A-	80
B+	75
B	70
B-	65
C+	60
C	55
D	50

Note that your TA will assign you a midterm participation grade as well: this is for the purposes of guidance only (ie, to let you know how you're doing), and is not factored into your final grade.