SM291 Homework/Participation Grading/Policy

You will turn in written homework in this course once a week (on average). One of the stated learning objectives for SM291 (see the syllabus) is for you to “write proofs ...” As such, you will be graded both on the correctness of your mathematical thinking, and on the quality of your writing and/or verbal explanations.

I. Grading

Each graded problem will be assessed as follows:

- **A (4 points):** This is correct and well-written mathematics!
- **B (3 points):** This is a good piece of work, but there are some mathematical or writing shortcomings which need addressing.
- **C (2 points):** There is some good intuition here, but there is at least one serious flaw.
- **D (1 point):** I don’t understand this, but I see that you have worked on it. Come see me!
- **F (0 points):** I believe that you have not yet worked on this problem enough.

You can earn *more* points than what is listed above as follows:

- A completed presentation of a problem at the board in class is worth 6 points. An attempt at a presentation is worth 1 point.
  - A completed presentation consists of (1) a correct written solution (on the board) which is (2) accompanied by a clear verbal explanation out loud, and (3) answers to all other students’ questions regarding the problem.
  - A student who gives a completed presentation receives credit for that problem, and does not need to turn in a written copy of the problem.
- Any problem you solve on your own before it is presented in class earns 1 extra point.

Finally, I will compute the Homework/Participation portion of your grade (see the course policy statement) with the following cutoffs. An average of

- 4 pts/week earns a D
- 8 pts/week earns a C
- 12 pts/week earns a B
- 16 pts/week earns an A

II. Writing

All solutions/proofs should be written in complete sentences, using correct English, and with correct use of mathematical terminology. On homework and tests, I will allow you to use mathematical symbology as shorthand, but of course, it should be used correctly!

For example, instead of writing, “there exists a real number $x$ such that $x^2 + 3x - 10 = 0$,” you could write, “$\exists x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $x^2 + 3x - 10 = 0$.”