Calculating your course grade: Econ. 203

Here’s how to calculate your course grade using your exam scores and quiz scores:

1. **Determine your best midterm score.** If you took both the midterm exam and the makeup to the midterm, take the better of your two scores. If you took only one of these exams, that's the score to use.

2. **Take your two best quiz scores.** For example, if you took three quizzes and your scores were 10, 11, and 14, then your two best quiz scores are 11 and 14. If you took only one quiz, the second of your two “best quiz scores” is a zero (unfortunately!). If you didn’t take any quizzes, both of your two “best quiz scores” are zero (unfortunately!).

3. **Calculate the average of your two best quiz scores.** For example, if your two best quiz scores are 10 and 14, then the average of these two scores is \((10 + 14)/2 = 12\). Likewise, if your two best quiz scores are 10 and 0, the average of these two scores is \((10 + 0)/2 = 5\).

4. **Convert the average of your two best quiz scores into the equivalent of an exam score, by multiplying by 40 and then dividing by 15.** For example, if the average of your two best quiz scores is 10, then this is equivalent to an exam score of \(10 \times (40/15) = 26.6667\).

5. **Your final course score is a weighted average of your best midterm score, your two best quiz scores (converted to the equivalent of an exam, as in #4 above), and your final exam score (or makeup final exam score).** As noted on the syllabus, the weights are 35% for both the midterm and the final exam, and 30% for the quizzes. Thus, your numerical final course score is computed as

   \[
   \text{numerical final course score} = 0.35 \times \text{best midterm score} + 0.30 \times \text{best quiz scores} + 0.35 \times \text{best final exam score}
   \]

6. **Convert your numerical final course score into a final course grade using the following cutoffs:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>final course score</th>
<th>final course grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36-40</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34-35.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32-33.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-31.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-28.99</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-25.99</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-19.99</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. To determine the score you need to achieve on the final exam (or the final exam makeup) to achieve a certain grade, proceed as follows:

Use the table in #6 above to determine the minimum final course score needed to achieve the grade you want. Then solve the equation below for the minimum final exam (or final exam makeup) score you need to achieve in order to get that score:

\[
\text{minimum final course score desired} = 0.35 \times \text{best midterm score} + 0.30 \times \text{best quiz scores} + 0.35 \times \text{minimum final exam/makeup score}
\]

where the "best quiz scores" are converted to the equivalent of an exam score, as shown in #4 above. Thus, for example, suppose you want to get a B in the course (minimum score = 32); your midterm score was 29; and your quiz scores average 28. Plug these numbers into the equation above, to get

\[
32 = 0.35 \times 29 + 0.30 \times 28 + 0.35 \times \text{minimum final exam/makeup score}
\]

So, to determine the minimum final exam/makeup score you need in order to get a B for the course, solve the above equation to get

\[
\text{minimum final exam/makeup score} = \frac{[32 - (0.35 \times 29 + 0.30 \times 28)]}{0.35} = 38.42
\]

So you would need to get a score of better than 38.42 (more precisely, 39) on the final exam (or the makeup) to be assured of a B for the course.

8. Points matter. Thus, remember that a score of 32 on an exam is a low B, whereas a 35 score is a high B, and so on. Since your course grade is a weighted average of your exam scores, a low score can pull your average down (and a high score can pull your average up). Also, there is no "rounding up": a final course score of 35.95 is a B+ (not an A); a final course score of 28.89 is a C (not a C+); and so on.