

As we approach the two part midterm exam in this class (10/9 and 10/12) and the 10 week grading report, I'd like to communicate information regarding **grading and student performance**.

The goal of this course is for students to *learn content and skills*. Learning is a process that takes time. Students need adequate exposure to the course material and time to process it, practice with it, and get help on it *before* they are assessed for mastery.

Students need to master the content and skills for each major unit of study by the end of the unit and demonstrate that mastery on the midterm exam. Quizzes prior to the midterm provide feedback to the students and the teacher about student progress, but they are *not* intended as a final evaluation on what a student has learned. As you may note in my grading spreadsheet, the quizzes are intentionally weighted as minimal points.

A low score on a quiz means that the student needs to spend more time on that content/skill until they've "got it". The goal is to "get it" by the time of the midterm exam. Please view a low grade as I do- as a sign that the student is a "work in progress", *not* a failure. Many need more time, practice, and help before they fully master something.

Students and parents should respond to a low grade by trying to identify the gaps and misconceptions in the student's learning and developing a plan to work on those areas. As instructor, my role is to provide helpful resources and tutoring to the student until they master the content/skills. Students should try to attend tutoring if they are in need of clarification of what we are learning in class and get help. **Most students are not taking advantage of available tutoring AT ALL. Tutoring is Monday through Thursday after school in C-7 or C-10.**

Also, please remember that every point *earned* reflects something mastered, so in addition to examining what was missed, **let's not forget to celebrate what *was* learned successfully!** A 5 out of 10 on an assessment looks like a "fail", but what it says is that the student *was successful* in being able to comprehend five specific key ideas in their quiz. That is a foundation that can be built upon with a little more practice and guidance!

I hope you find this message informative and reassuring. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.

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