Grade Speculation Calculator

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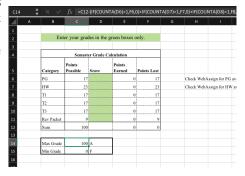
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Motivation

- "What's my grade?"

- All students are failing until 60% of point opportunities

- Students need to reflect, project, and potentially pivot
  - The student, not the instructor, should hypothesize about their trajectory.

Grade Speculation Calculator

- Spreadsheet mirrors syllabus

- Student inputs grades earned
  - Per grade item, GSC outputs points earned and points lost

- GSC calculates minimum grade earned and maximum possible
  - Emphasizes range of grade possibilities
  - Max: subtract points lost
  - Min: sum points earned

C14 f_x =C12-(IF(COUNTA(D6)=1,F6,0)+IF(COUNTA(D7)=1,F7,0)+IF(COUNTA(D8)=1,F8,

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2		Enter your grades in the green boxes only.							
3									
4			Semester Grade Calculation						
5		Category	Points Possible	Score	Points Earned	Points Lost			
6		PG	17		0	17		Check WebAssign for PG av	
7		HW	23		0	23		Check WebAssign for HW av	
8		T1	17		0	17			
9		T2	17		0	17			
10		T3	17		0	17			
11		Rev Packet	9		0	9			
12		Sum	100		0	0			
13									
14		Max Grade	100	A					
15		Min Grade	0	F					
16									

Benefits

- Students reflect
    - ‣ Categories they need to improve
    - ‣ Current engagement vs. performance
    - ‣ How/where improving engagement will improve performance
    - ⇒ Developing growth mindset?
- Help students understand class structure
    - ‣ Students discover how grade items and weights affect their semester grade
    - ‣ Students explore syllabus, class policies, and grade opportunities
- An advising tool
    - ‣ Students realize they can still pass, and now know where they need to concentrate their efforts
    - ‣ Some students could realize that they've already failed
- Students may discover that additional effort in a given category doesn't improve letter grade.
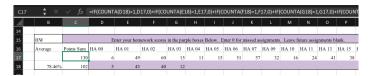- No more grade disputes after the semester

Pro Tips

- Post to Moodle
  - ‣ Provide context
  - ‣ Refer back to syllabus policies
  - ‣ Link to withdrawal form and deadline

- Help students differentiate between
  - ‣ earned grades vs. estimates
  - ‣ locked grades vs. flexible grades

- Make GSC a class activity
  - ‣ Motivation will be high!
  - ‣ Allow students to go back and work on something for resubmission
  - ⇒ Build resubmissions/revisions into class policies?

Useful Excel Functions

- IF(COUNTA(D6)=1,F6,0)
    - If cell D6 has a value, use the value in F6 toward the grade calculation.
    - Otherwise, do not count this grade item yet, meaning this grade item contributes to the range of grade possibilities.
    - COUNTA: 1 means the cell contains a value, 0 means it's empty.

Useful Excel Functions

- LOOKUP(C14,{0,60,63,66.9,69.9,72.9,76.9,79.9,82.9,86.9,89.9,92.9},
  { "F" , "D-" , "D" , "D+" , "C-" , "C" , "C+" , "B-" , "B" , "B+" , "A-" , "A" })
  ▸ Translate grade number to grade letter.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
K5			f_x =LOOKUP(J5,{0,60,63,66.9,69.9,72.9,76.9,79.9,82.9,86.9,89.9,92.9},{"F","D-","D","D+","C-","C","C+","B-","B","B+","A-","A"})													
1																
2		Enter your grades in the green boxes only.														
3		Semester Grade Calculation														
4		Category	Points Possible	Score	Points Earned	Points Lost										
5		T1	15	71	10.65	4.35		Max Grade		87.79	B+					
6		T2	15	83	12.45	2.55		Min Grade		57.79	F					
7		T3	15		0	15										

Thank you!