

The Ethical Professor

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Final Grades/Syllabi

As the end of term approaches, you may want to ask yourself the following questions as you begin to determine final grades for your students, and also to think about the syllabi you create for next semester's classes.

1. Is it clear in your syllabus on what students will be graded and the weight of each grade to the total final grade?
2. Is your grading system clear and internally consistent? (e.g. if you use both points and percentages is it readily apparent to students how these integrate together?)
3. Is your grading transparent? Can students calculate their own grades throughout the semester to avoid the dreaded 'grade surprise' at the end?
4. Do you give frequent, meaningful feedback on student work throughout the semester?
5. Do you keep final exams for at least 4 - 6 months so students can review their grades if they have questions?
6. If you make subjective adjustments (e.g. 89.2% gets bumped up to an 'A'), how do you make sure that you treat all students fairly?
7. Do you turn your grades in on time? (your students are depending on you!)