Grading Problem Sets and Exams
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What is the purpose of grading?
• To provide students with feedback about their learning.
• To motivate students to learn.
• To measure how much students have learned.

How can grading reflect these goals?
• Feedback should be provided with the grade.
• Grading should reflect what you want students to learn.
• Grading should be consistent.

Tip #1: Grade vertically, if possible.
• Grade by question, not by paper.
• When grading in a group, divide up the questions (not papers) by grader.
• As you are grading, first grade all the Question 1’s, then all the Question 2’s, etc.

Tip #2: Always create a rubric.
• A rubric is a scoring tool that specifies how many points to award to each type of answer.
• Rubrics help ensure consistency across graders, as well as within a grader.
• Rubrics can be formal or informal. If informal, you should update the rubric as you grade, keeping track of common mistakes.
• A good rubric is generous if the student gets the wrong answer but shows understanding.
• However, it should not be too generous if the student has a fundamental error.

Tip #3: Set clear policies at the beginning of the quarter.
• When and where will assignments be returned?
• What should students do if they have a complaint about the grading? (Suggestion: always regrade the entire assignment, not just the part the student wants regraded.)
• These policies should be stated clearly at the beginning of the course. Discuss with instructor if they’re not.

All materials from the presentation are available at
http://www.stanford.edu/~dlsun/ctl