

Grading Policy

For each problem, the entire analysis is graded, not just the final result.

- If equation/formulation is wrong, no points will be given, even if the final result is numerically “correct”.
- If equation/formulation is right, but you’ve made mistakes along the way, points will be taken depending on severity of the mistakes.
- If calculation is messy (mixing numbers and/or calculation steps), some points may be taken. *Please limit “scratch-paper” calculations to scratch paper. Your results should be neatly presented.*
- If you forget the unit or use the wrong unit, some points will be taken.
- For problem with multiple segments, points are distributed as: easier segment given fewer points, more difficult or comprehensive segment given greater points.

VOTE: earn partial credit for multiple choice question: YES or NO?
Vote outcome (Fall 2015): YES

As recommended by faculty colleagues, grading for GEOL4444 is separate from GEOL5444: *“the undergraduates will be graded separately and their absolute grades scaled accordingly based on those earned by the top UGs. For graduate students, the absolute grade will be assigned”.*

To earn a good grade:

- (1) present professional & accurate results;
- (2) be prepared;
- (3) don’t need to hear from you that my grading standard is too high*¹;
- (4) come see me or the TA if you have a specific complaint about a particular grade*²;

**1 According to GG Chair, each professor sets his/her own grading standard regardless of what other professors may or may not do. If you don’t like the grading policy, I suggest you take another course. It is not fruitful to come engaging me in debates because some other professors grade differently. It’s my view that grade inflation devaluates everyone’s education and hurts the credibility of the academic program.*

**2 If this is a simple mistake, we can resolve it on the spot. If not, please prepare a detailed email explaining how the grade was incorrectly assigned. We will investigate the complaint and give the petitioner a formal email reply.*