

Projects in a Large
Lecture Format
Differential Equations
Course

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My course:

- Four-credit, sophomore-level course that usually follows three semesters of calculus
- 15 week semester with 3 lectures and 1 discussion section meeting per week
- 3 in-class exams during the semester and final exam determine 75% of grade
- 2 group projects determine 20% of grade
- Spot checked weekly homework is 5% of grade
- 80% engineering students, 10% math majors

Projects: What is a good project?

- More than a list of commands for the students to execute.
- Mathematics should be so central that the use of technology becomes a secondary rather than a primary aspect of the assignment.
- Force the students to interpret and explain.
- Flexible (or vague) enough so that some of the reports surprise you.

Gareth Roberts on Grading Projects

Helpful tips:

- Vary the data/parameters per group
- Limit the length of the report
- Ask specific questions
- Evaluation check-sheet
- Computer programs to check student's data/results
- Place model reports on reserve/web

Grading time: 15-30 minutes per report

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