Overview of Mentor’s Gradebook Tool

Why Use Gradebook?
- Immediate Feedback to Students
- Students can
  - Of their own volition
  - On their own schedule
- Check how they are doing in your course.
- Organize your grades electronically
- Integrates with the Assignment and Test/Quiz tools.
- Anecdotally, I hear more about this tool from students than any other.

Grading Options
- Grades can be divided into Categories.
- Grades can be based on
  - Points
  - Percentages
- Currently, grades cannot be entered as letter grades.
- Instructors control when grades are viewable by students (released).
- Grades can be exported/imported to spreadsheet friendly files

Categories
- Grades can be divided into Categories.
  - Each Category is averaged separately.
  - Categories are combined to give the Course Grade based on weighting percentages.
- Categories are Optional.

Examples of Categories
- Tests: 35%
- Problem Sets: 15%
- Laboratory 25%
- Final Exam 25%

Grading Using Points
- Each Assignment is given a total number of points.
- Assignments with more points have a heavier weight toward the average.
- To average, the sum of the points attained by a student are divided by the total number of points possible.
  - Problem Set 1 is worth 14 points.
  - Problem Set 2 is worth 28 points.
  - Problem Set 2 will count twice as heavily toward the average grade.
Grading Using Percentages

- All grades are assigned based on a 100 point scale.
- As each grade item is set up, the instructor has the option of assigning a weight to the item.
- Averaging is done using a weighted average.

Control of Release of Grades

- Instructors control the release of grades.
- Control is on an item by item level
- Instructors also control release of estimated Course Grade
  - This estimates Course Grade based on
    - Items for which grades are entered
    - Items designated as being part of the Course Grade.
    - Averages are calculated in each category (if exist)
    - Weighted according to categories that have values
  - I usually don’t release these until a reasonable fraction of the course points have been recorded
    - After the first hour test.

Lets Look at a Demonstration!