



The total number of points possible on the midterm was 82. The mean score was 54. The distribution of scores appears in the above bar chart. Here is a crude indicator of how the exam might translate into a letter grade, based on curves I have used in the past: 64 and above is in the A range, 52 to 63 is in the B range, and below 25 would be in the D range.

I've talked to a few people who didn't do so well on the midterm. They asked for tips on how to improve their grade. Here is my advice: Step 1, rewrite your lecture notes the day of the lecture, to make sure you understand everything. If necessary, look at previous lecture notes or the book, to fill in parts that seem unclear. Step 2, do some of what was done in lecture on your own. For example, a typical lecture involves doing some experiments. See if you can do those experiments without looking at notes. Write the experiment down on paper, with lots of illustration and discussion. Or, if you're in a study group (which I strongly encourage) you could give a lecture to other members of your group.