

IE 477 Fall 2019

Feedback Regarding Your Progress: Grading and General Observations

End of Fall Semester

In this document we detail the factors considered in grading and further thoughts. Additionally, we outline some general feedback which we believe are relevant for all groups. We are planning to detail these general observations and suggestions in the Feedback Meeting which will be held on February 5th, 13:40, at Mithat Coruh. At the end of the meeting, we are planning to give you our written feedback regarding individual groups.

GRADING

We considered a number of aspects while granting your final grade.

1. As one can only observe the outcomes and expectations of the final version of the project, and IE477 is sort of half-way to reach to that desired level, we used an optimistic view and resolved the ambiguities by giving you a higher letter grade (called “benefit of doubt”).
2. All your work including progress report, final report, proposal presentation, presentations to coordinators are considered at the grading stage. The evaluation of your Academic Advisor, Industrial Advisor and Teaching Assistant are also considered in the decision process. Of course, the coordinators have the advantage of seeing all projects at the same time and hence our evaluations are a significant part of the grading process, as well.
3. Your promptness in satisfying various due-dates as well as your preparedness in satisfying the requirements expected at those dates was considered in grading.
4. Grading took into account your progress, as well as how you currently fit your proposal into the decision making process of the organization you are working for. Hence, a group which had a significant progress in developing the approach may take the same grade as another group which have not developed the approach as much, but spent more effort on the way their method is incorporated into the decision making process of the organization.
5. Some individuals received different grades from their group peers. We used evaluations of the Academic Advisor, Industrial Advisor, as well as the information we gathered from the two Peer Evaluations and our own observations and investigations made up the grade. Your individual performance in attendance (lectures, meetings, presentations, etc) was a factor, as well.
6. A number of groups needed the “Incomplete Grade” to catch up with the expected level of progress at the end of the semester. However, as the semester break is very short, and the completion date for the incomplete grade is even closer, we thought that giving incomplete will not be effective. However, as a general rule, if you received below your “fair” expectations, it means that you need to work during the semester break. Actually, working during the semester break is beneficial to all groups, as the Spring Semester usually passes “faster” than you think and you do not notice how time flies.

FEEDBACK: General Observations – to be detailed later in the Feedback Meeting.

The following remarks are likely to be general, but not necessarily relevant for all the groups. We are planning to discuss the details in the feedback meeting scheduled on the 5th of February.

1. We are generally happy with your performance, and we indicated that in the grades we granted. However, at the same time we are aware that your progress this semester will be determining your overall performance and the grade that you are going to receive at the end of the Spring Semester. We think that the grade you will receive from IE478 is the correct indicator of your performance in this capstone project course.
2. One thing that you need to understand is the fact that your project will end at the end of the Spring Semester. Accordingly, we think that regardless of the grade received for IE477, all of the groups currently have a chance of presenting in the project fair. Of course, we are expecting that you are learning from your mistakes and from the feedback you receive from all the advisors and coordinators – which may then put you ahead of the other groups.
3. We think that your reporting style definitely needs to be improved. Details will follow in the feedback meeting.
4. We are generally happy with your presentation styles. Still a few more suggestions will help you improve.
5. Academic advisor's presence is a group's main technical or methodological support in developing/enhancing project ideas. Make sure that you make use of the expertise in the best possible way.
6. Work-in Progress and Issues Regarding Implementation: We think that a very small number of groups are aware of the vast challenges of solving a problem in the real environment and its relation with what we call "implementation of the project". We believe that this would be the imminent hurdle you will dealing with next semester. Details will follow in the feedback meeting.