



January 15, 2009

TO: Selected Academic Deans and Department Chairs

FROM: Julie Underwood, Interim Provost  
Jocelyn Milner, Director of Academic Planning & Analysis

RE: Review of Grading Patterns Within Undergraduate Courses

The 1999 UAPC and Deans review of grading practices recommended the Office of Academic Planning and Analysis periodically provide information comparing the distribution of grades among primary sections of the same course. Deans may recall receiving this information in recent years. In response to the recommendation of the UAPC in March 2007 to make this information more widely available, we are now sharing it with applicable department chairs. It is also posted online at [apa.wisc.edu/degrees\\_grades.html](http://apa.wisc.edu/degrees_grades.html).

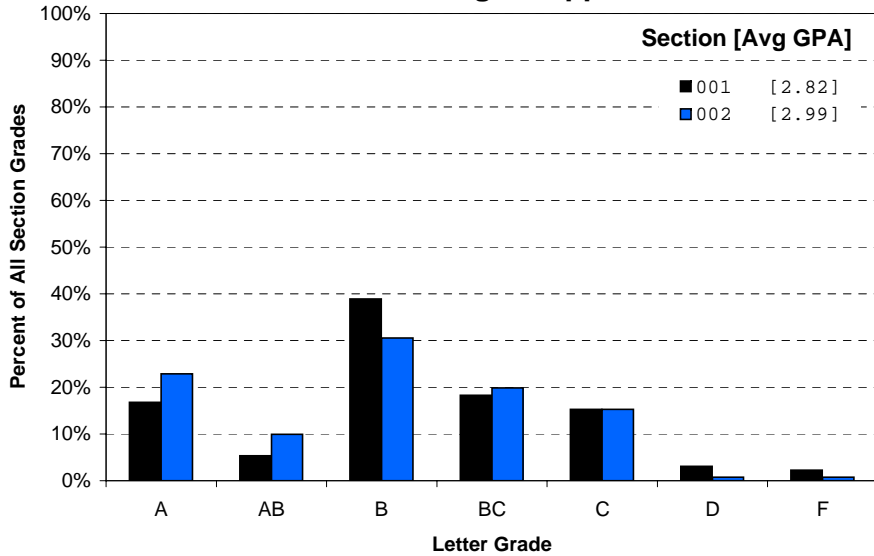
The attached document provides an updated analysis based on courses taught in Fall 2008 for lower division courses having multiple primary sections in fall semesters. These charts show the distribution of undergraduate letter grades in courses numbered below 400 that have multiple primary sections of at least 30 undergraduates in each section. Cross-listed courses are included in the primary department and are indicated by the “[XL]” symbol appended to the course title. Variable credit courses are excluded. Data for all schools/colleges are included to provide you with an overview of grading patterns in this type of course. If you have questions regarding the content presented in the attached charts, please contact Bruce Beck at 263-4240 or [bdbeck@wisc.edu](mailto:bdbeck@wisc.edu).

In many of the courses shown in the charts, the grade distributions of the multiple sections are similar. In some other courses, the distribution of grades varies considerably between sections of the same course. Real differences in student abilities may account for some of this variation. However, another possible source of variation between sections may be differences in instructor grading practices. **Please identify and review those courses where you think differences between section grade distributions are significant.**

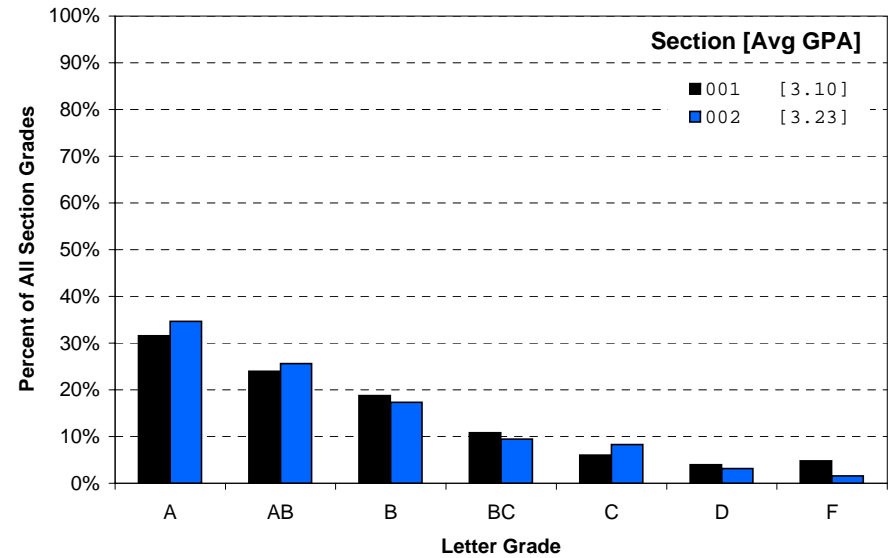
Attachment

**Distribution of Fall 2008-09 Undergraduate Letter Grades in  
Courses Numbered Below 400 Having Multiple Classes of at Least 30 Undergraduates  
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences**

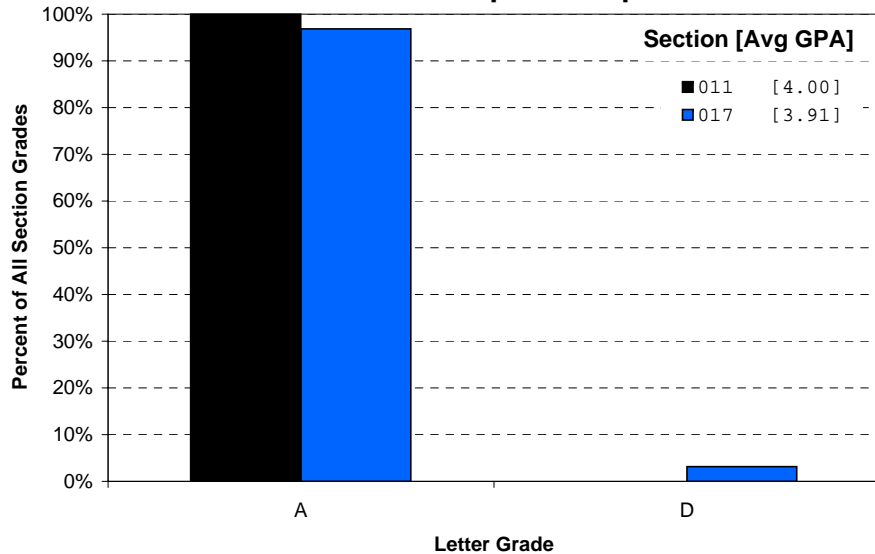
**A A E 215 Intro to Agr & Applied Econ**



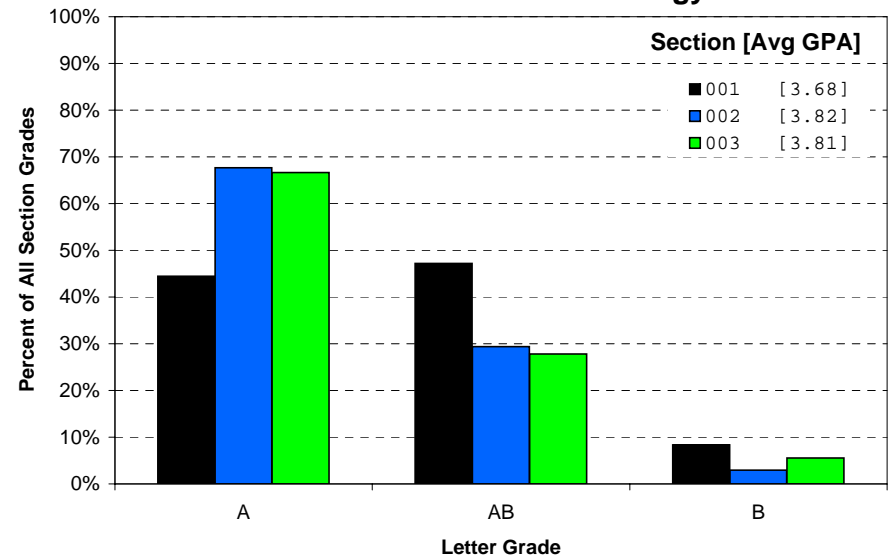
**FOOD SCI 120 Science of Food**



**GENETICS 375 Special Topics**

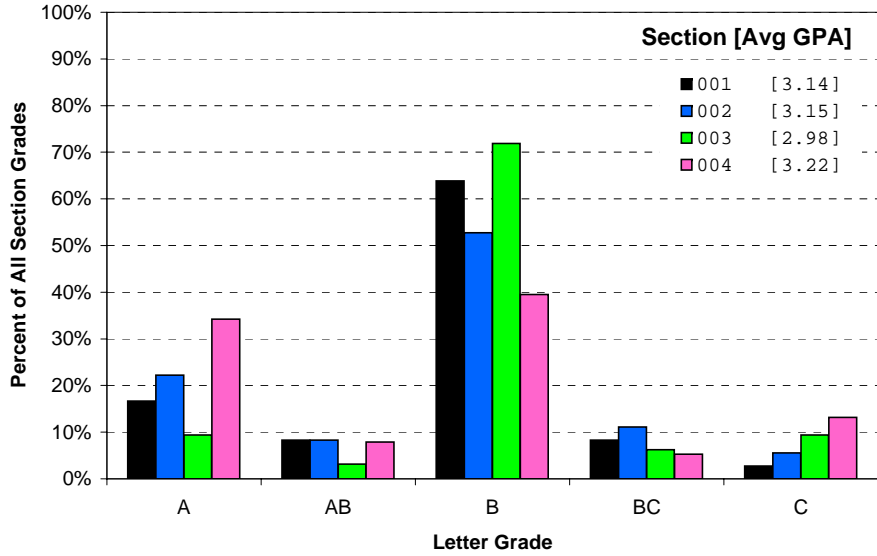


**MICROBIO 102 General Microbiology Lab**

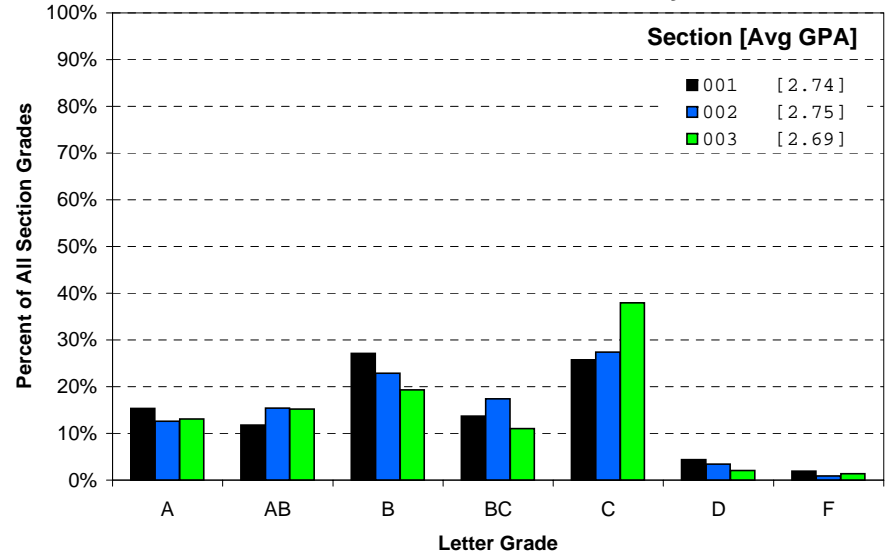


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**MICROBIO 304 Biology of Microorganisms Lab**

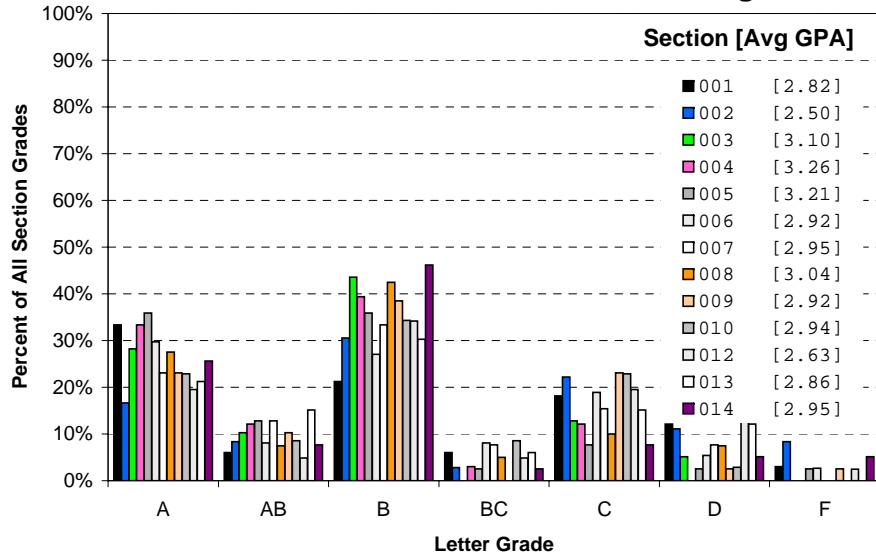


**NUTR SCI 132 Nutrition Today**

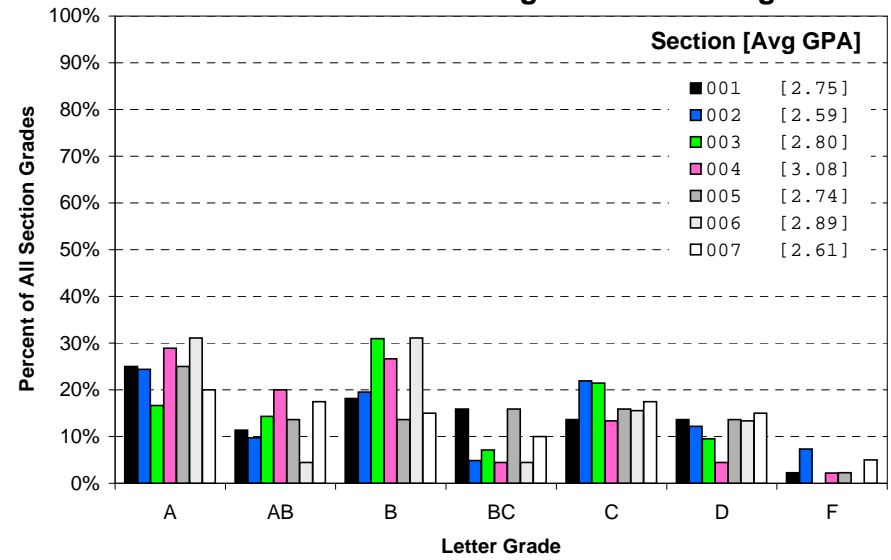


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School of Business**

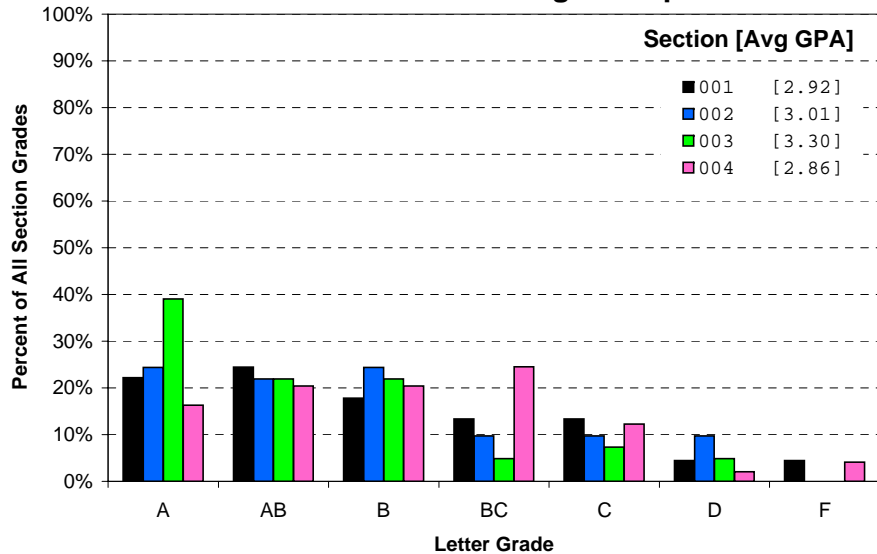
**ACCT I S 100 Intro Financial Accounting**



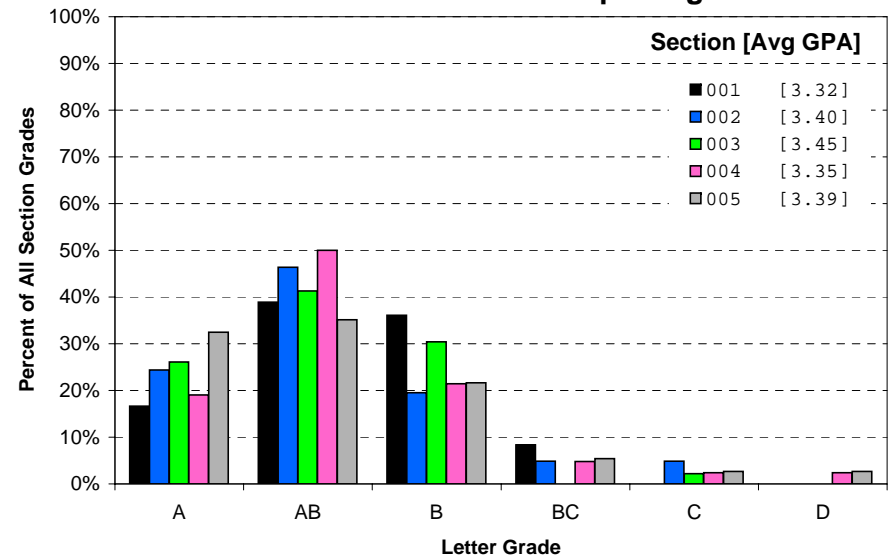
**ACCT I S 211 Intro Managerial Accounting**



**ACCT I S 300 Accounting Principles**

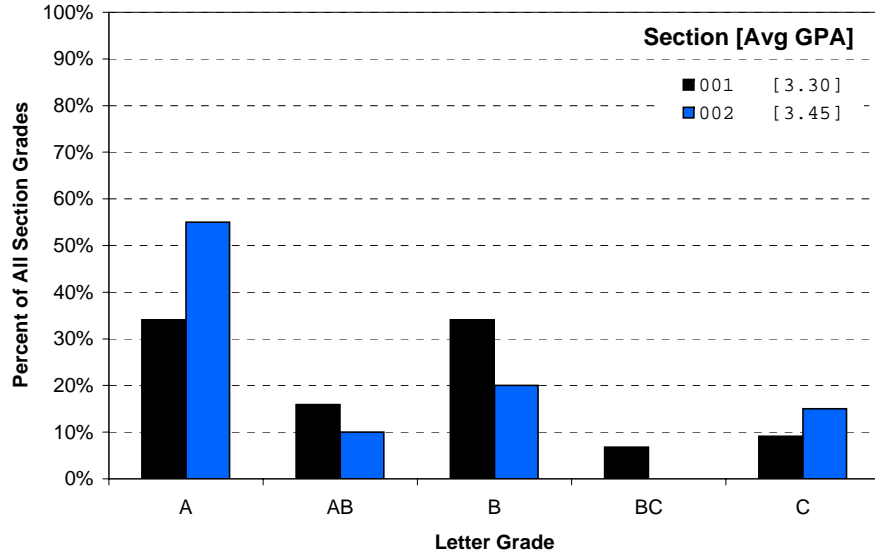


**ACCT I S 301 Financial Reporting I**

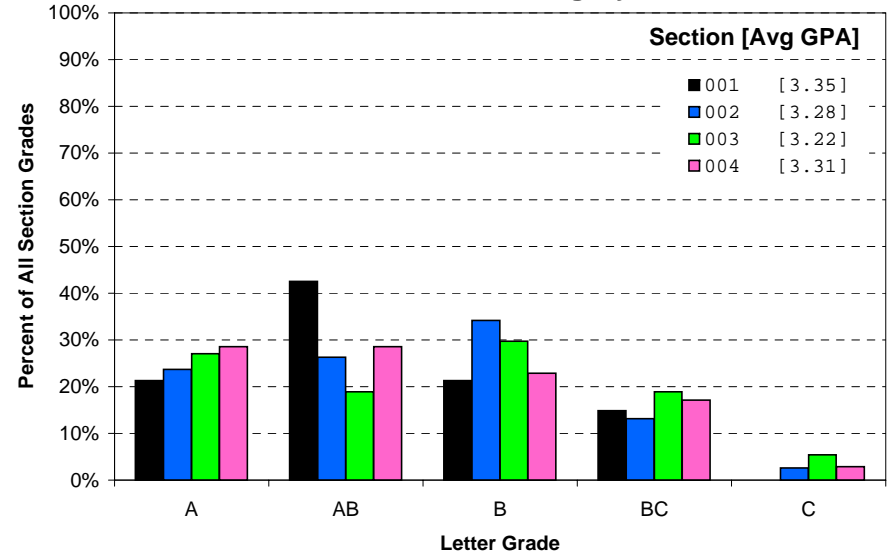


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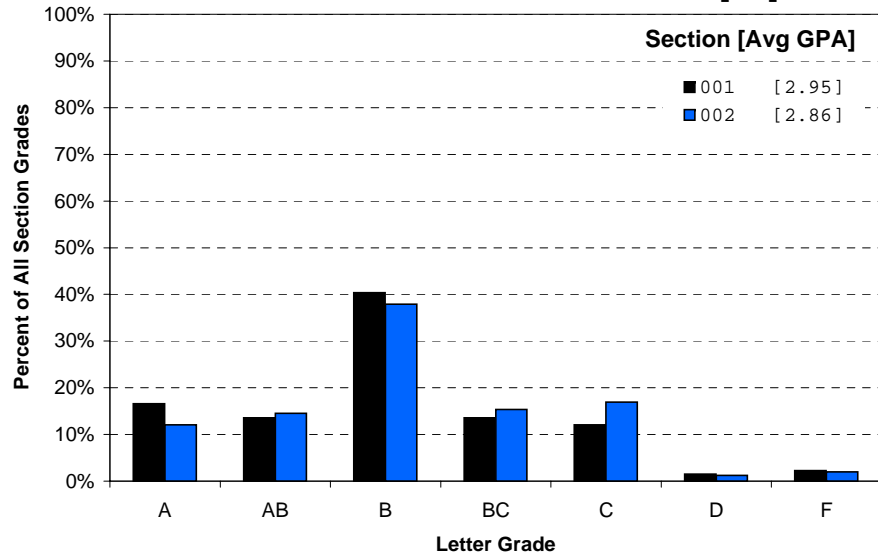
**ACCT I S 310 Cost Management Systems**



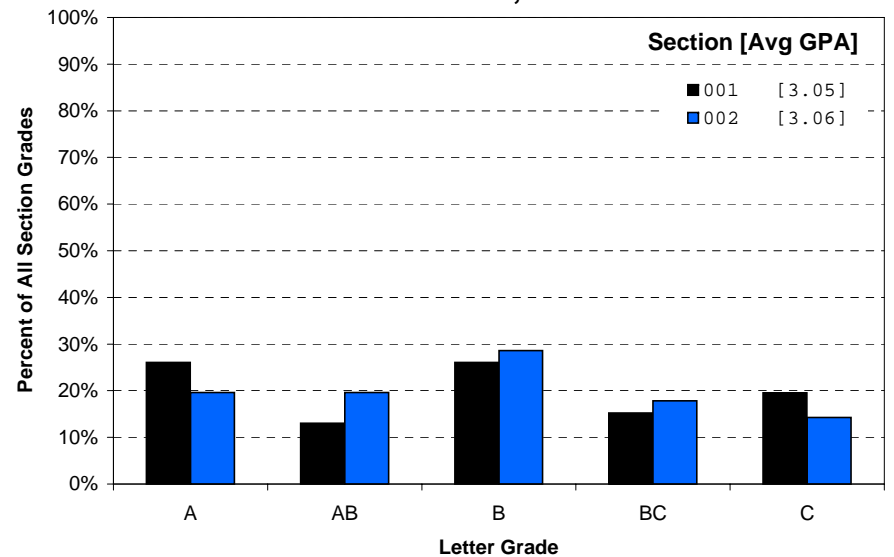
**ACCT I S 340 Accounting Systems**



**FINANCE 300 Introduction to Finance [XL]**

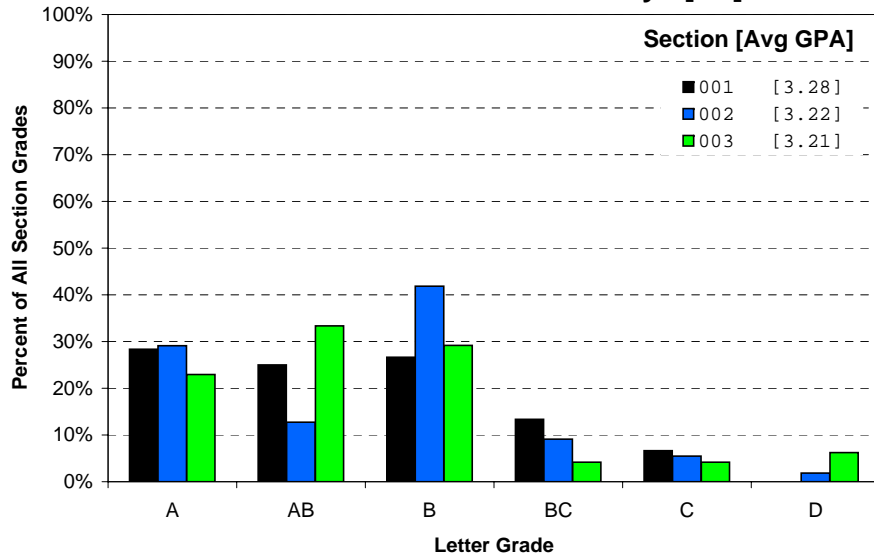


**FINANCE 305 Finc Mrkts,Instns&Econ Actv**

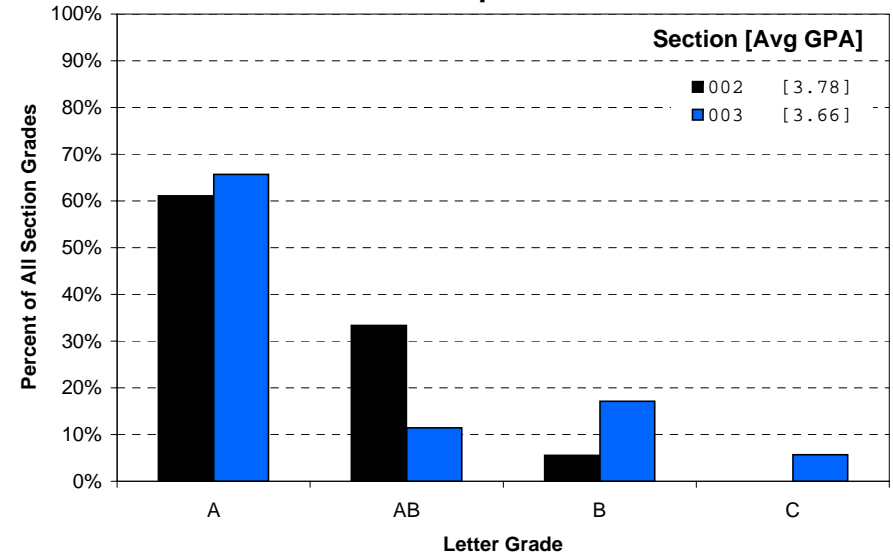


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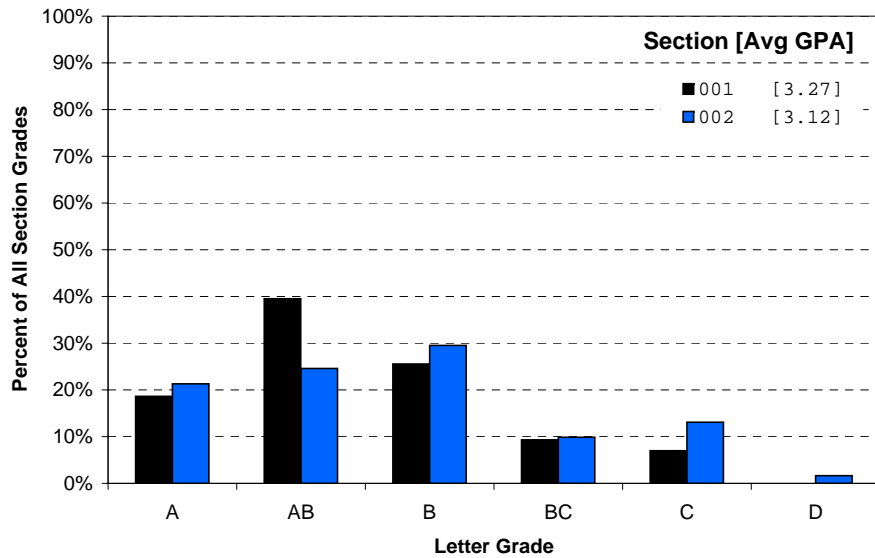
**FINANCE 320 Investment Theory [XL]**



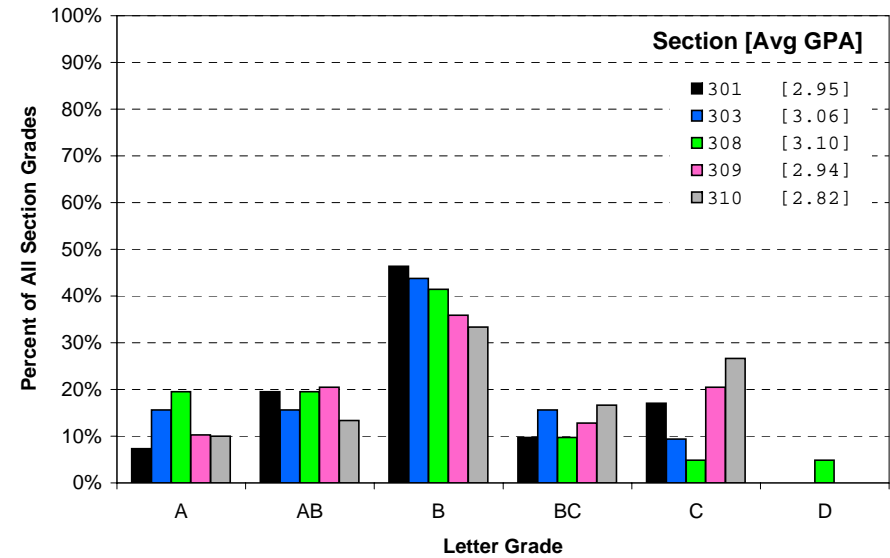
**FINANCE 325 Corporation Finance**



**FINANCE 330 Derivative Securities**

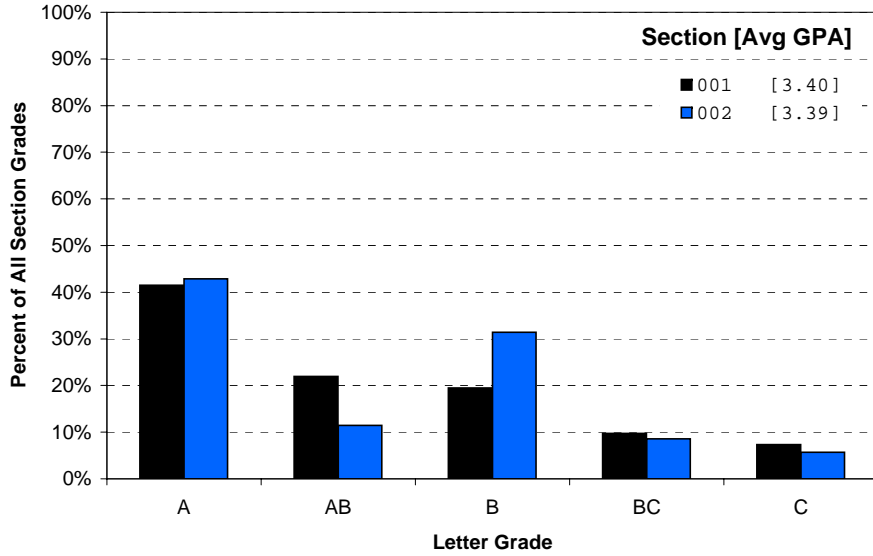


**GEN BUS 301 Business Law**

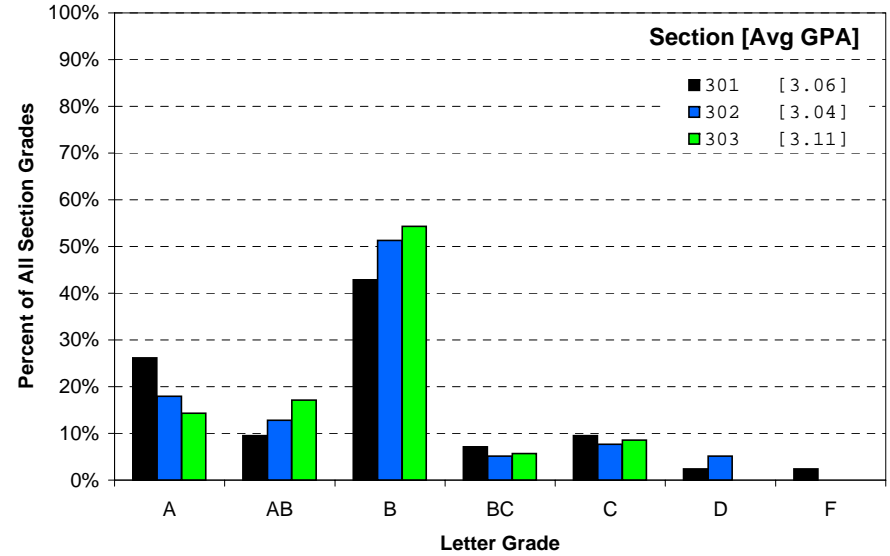


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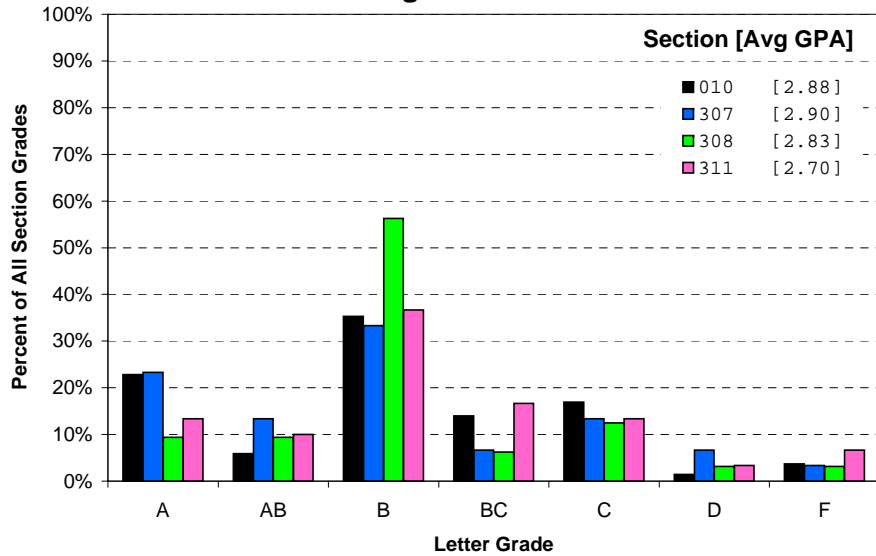
**GEN BUS 302 Bus Orgs&Negotiable Instrumnts**



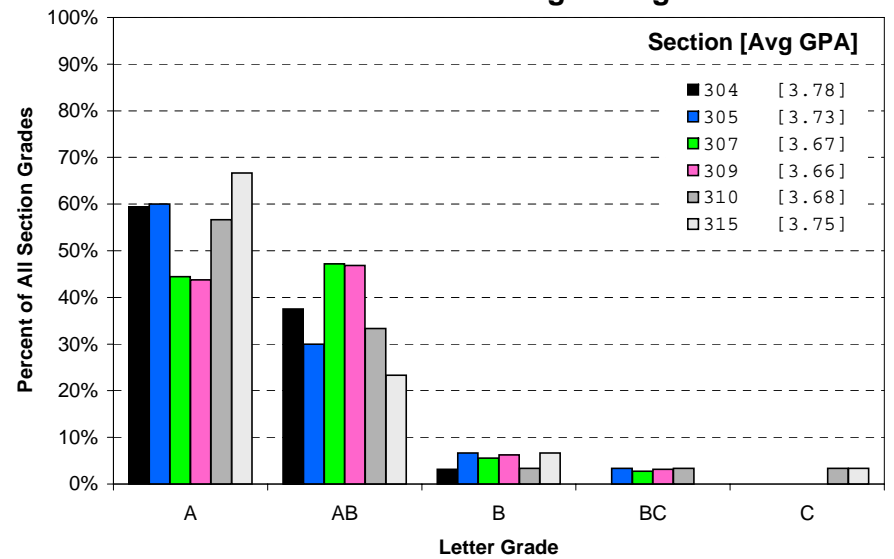
**GEN BUS 303 Business Statistics**



**M H R 300 Organizational Behavior**

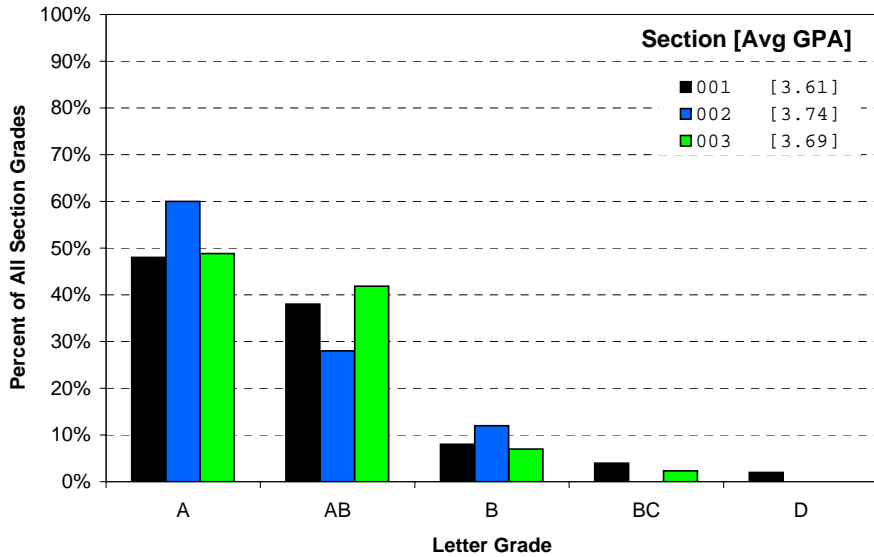


**MARKETNG 300 Marketing Management**

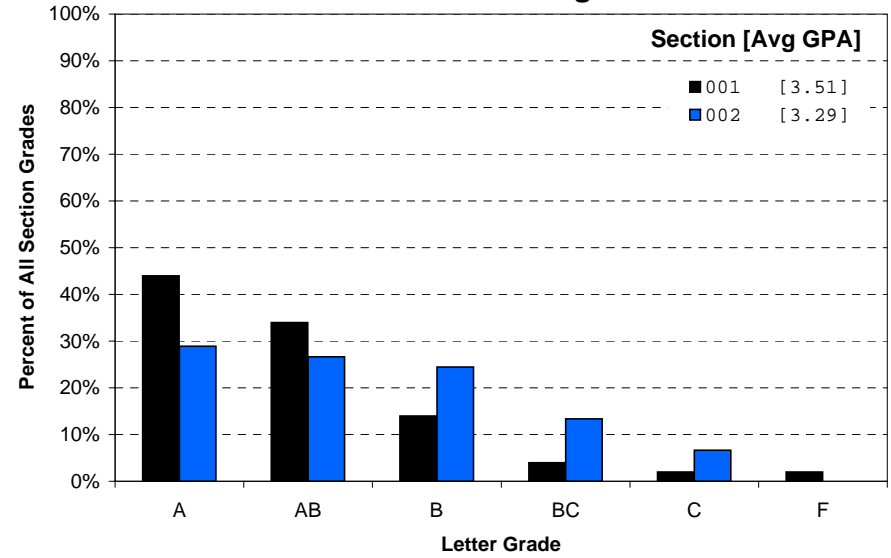


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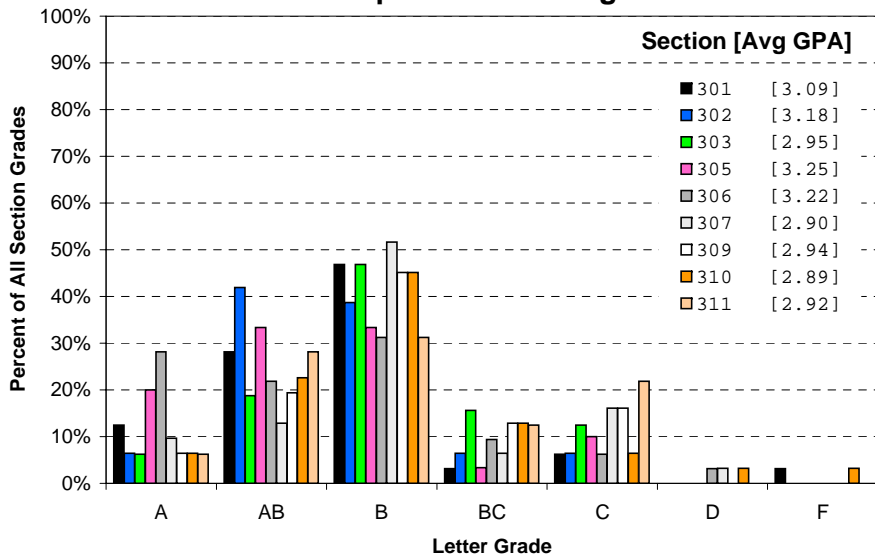
**MARKETNG 305 Consumer Behavior**



**MARKETNG 310 Marketing Research**



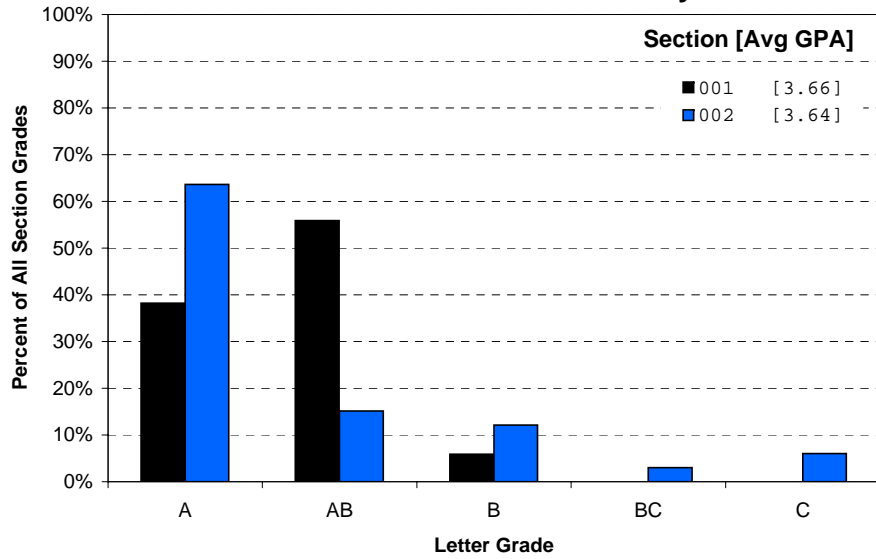
**OTM 300 Operations Management**



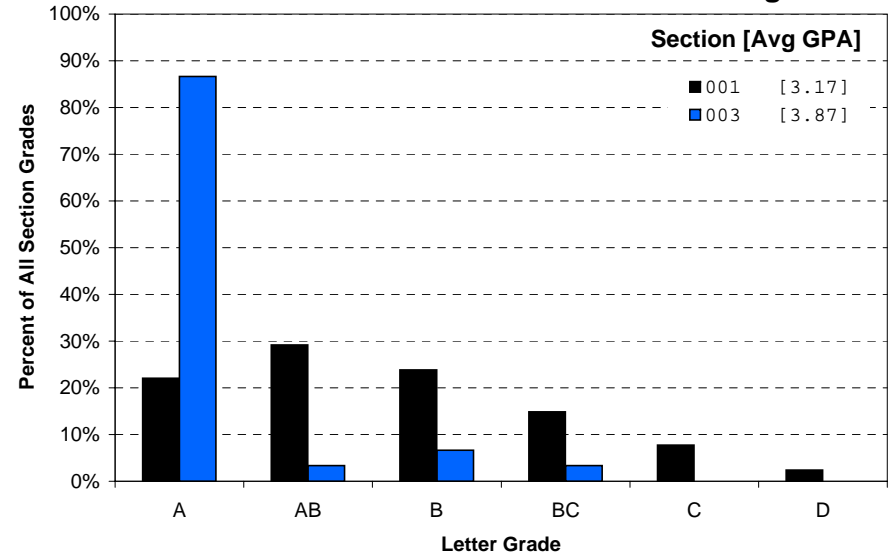


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School of Education**

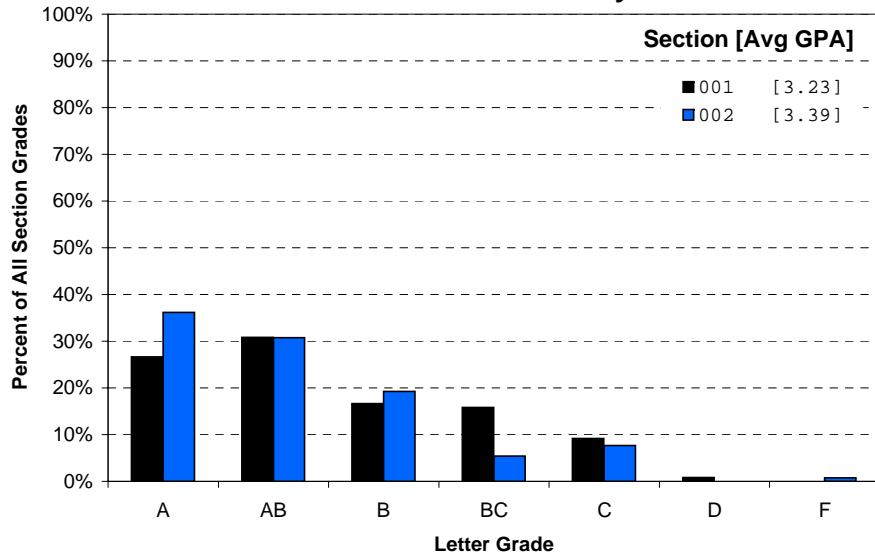
**ED POL 300 School and Society**



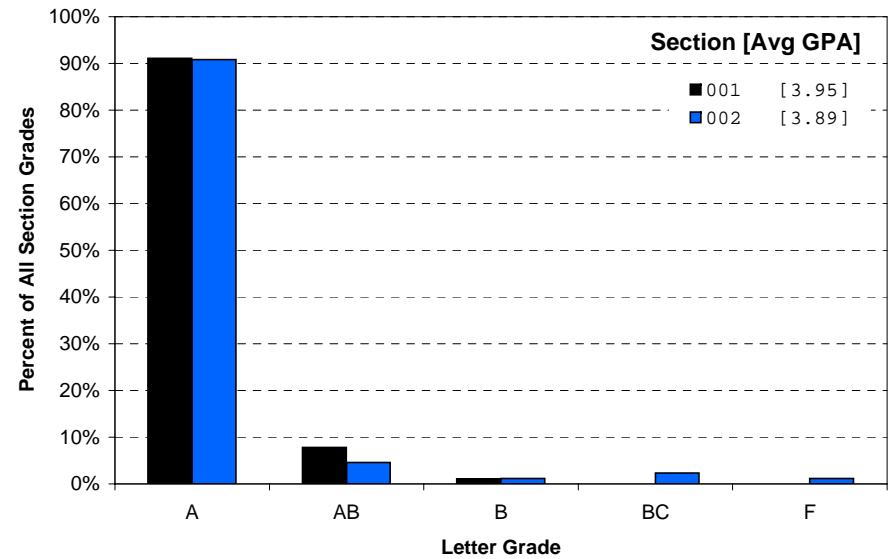
**ED PSYCH 301 Human Abilities & Learning**



**ED PSYCH 320 Human Dev-Infancy&Childhood**

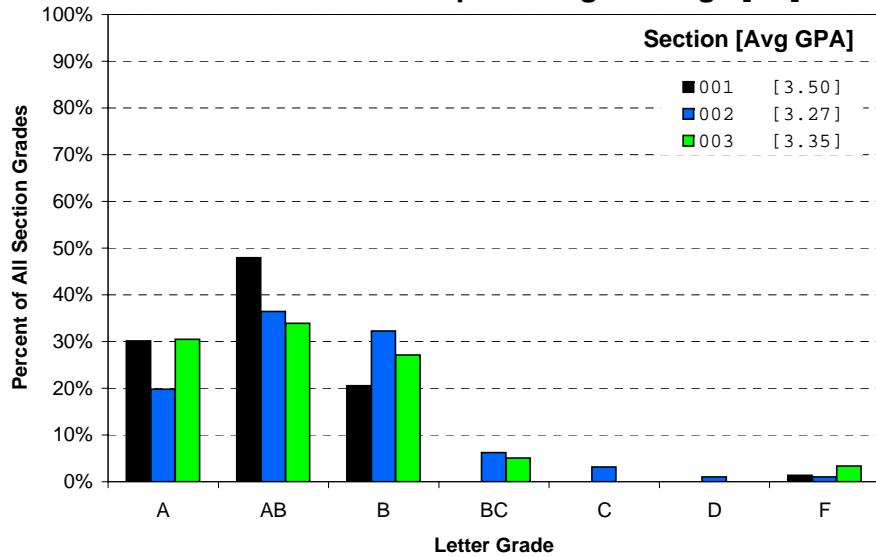


**RP & SE 300 Individls with Disabilities**

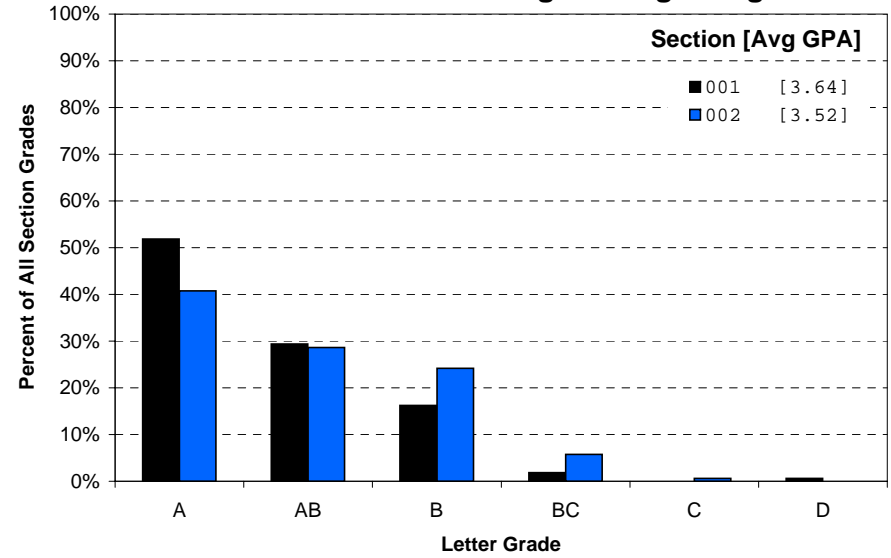


**Distribution of Fall 2008-09 Undergraduate Letter Grades in  
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College of Engineering**

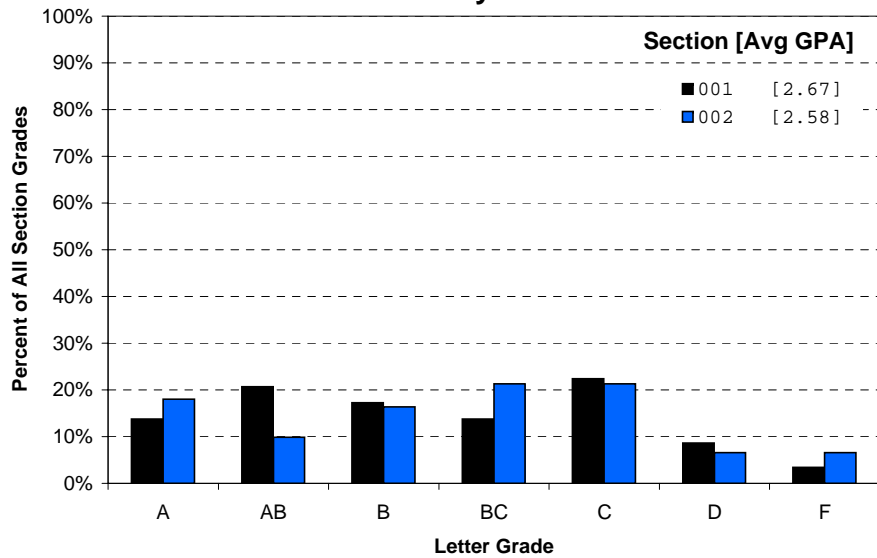
**E C E 252 Intro to Computer Engineering [XL]**



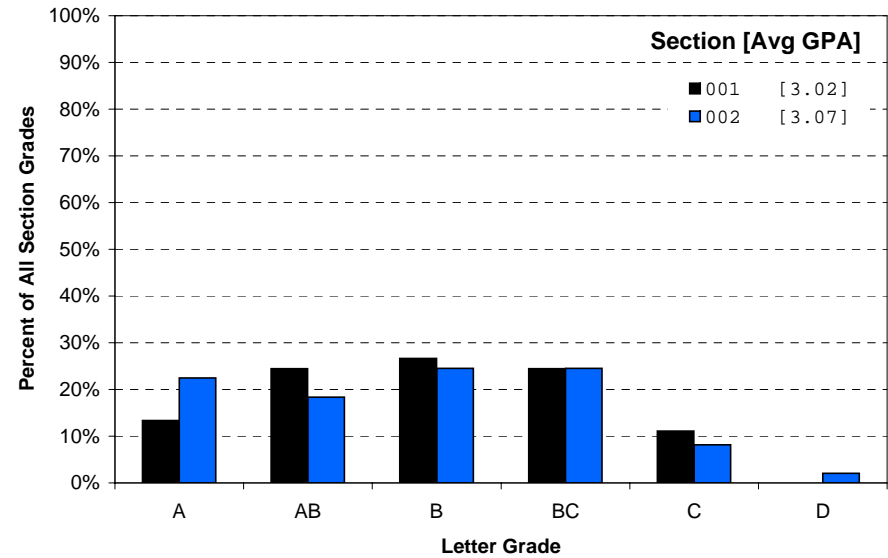
**INTEREGR 160 Intro to Engineering Design**



**M E 240 Dynamics**

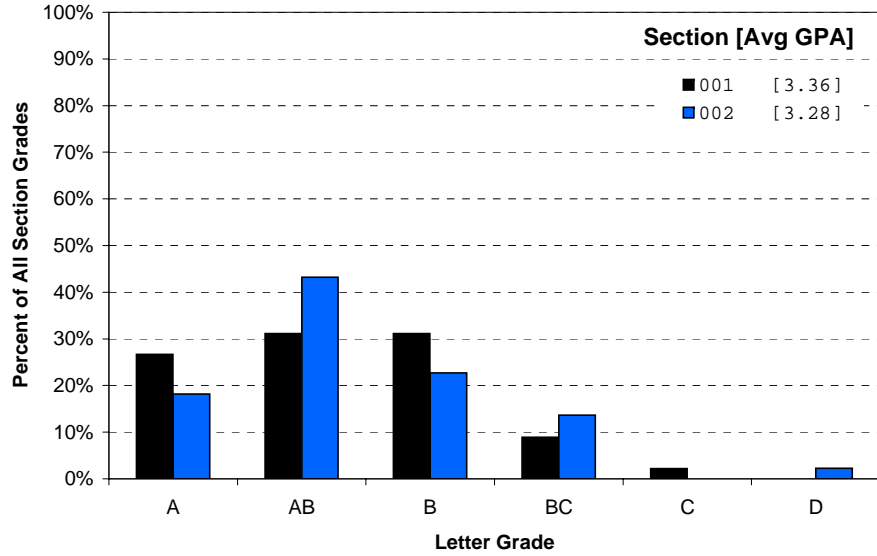


**M E 306 Mechanics of Materials**

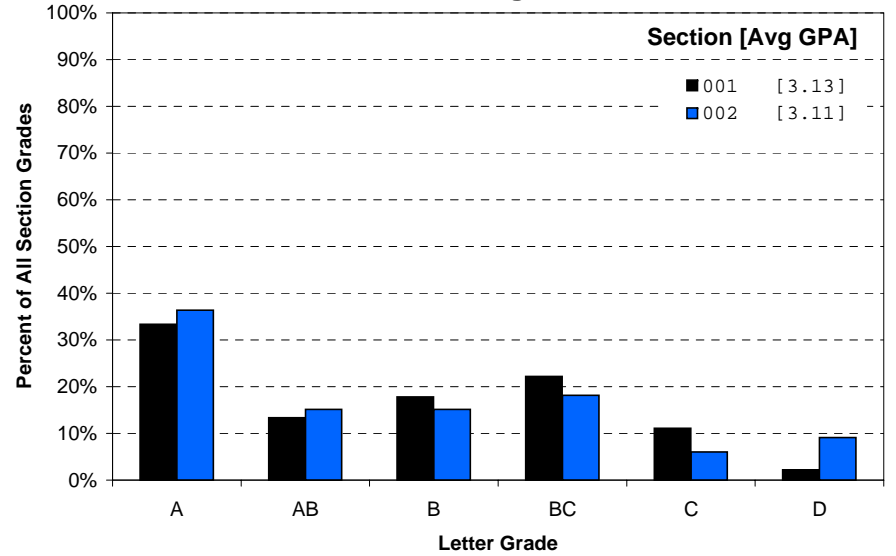


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College of Engineering**

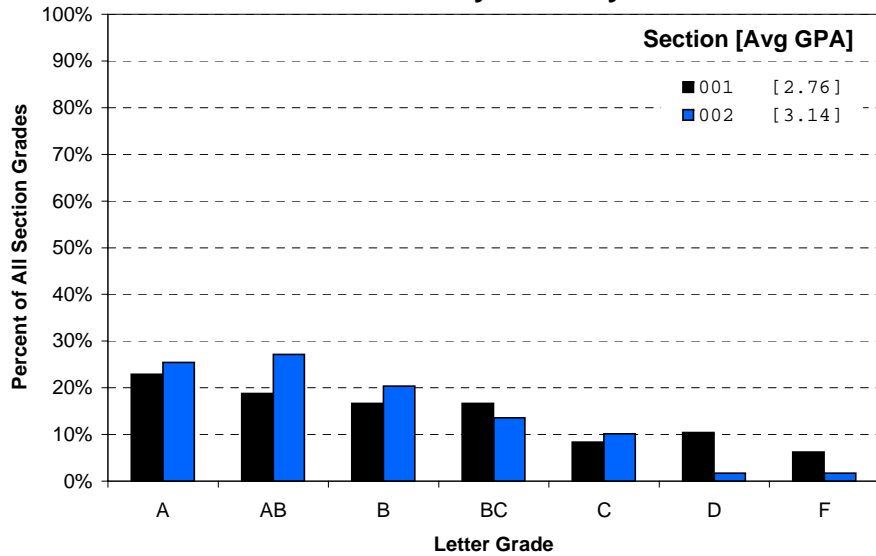
**M E 313 Manufacturing Processes**



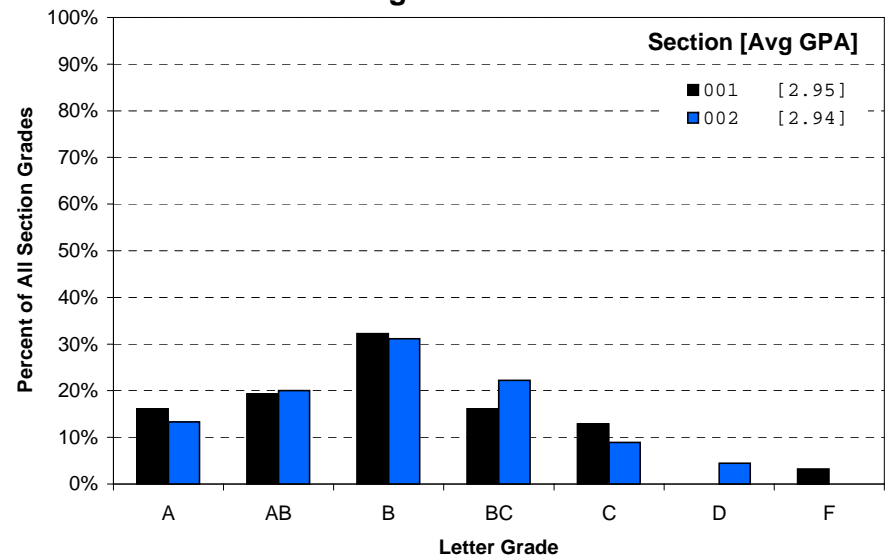
**M E 314 Manufacturing Fundamentals**



**M E 340 Intro to Dynamic Systems**

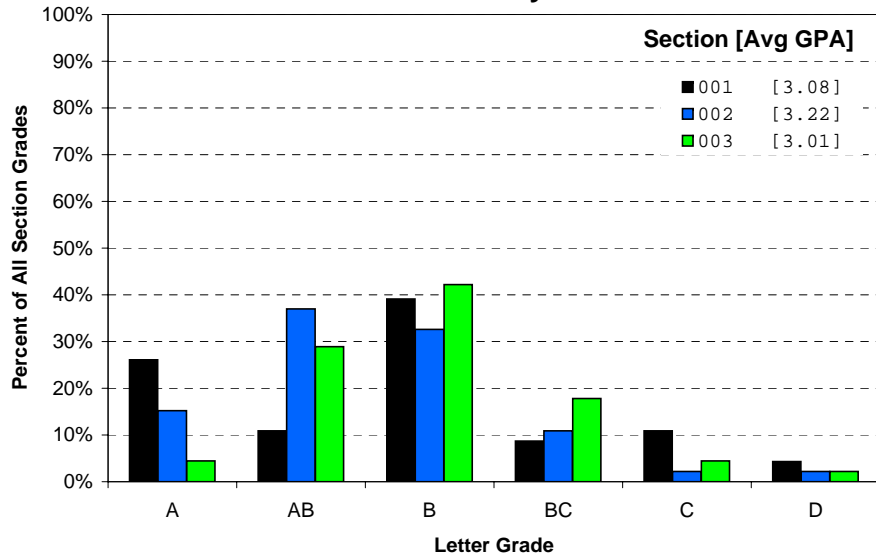


**M E 342 Design of Machine Elements**

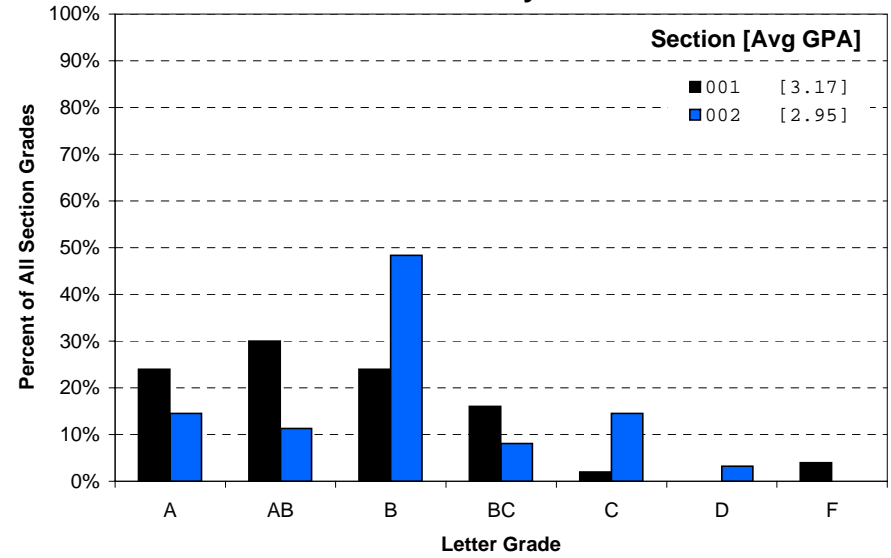


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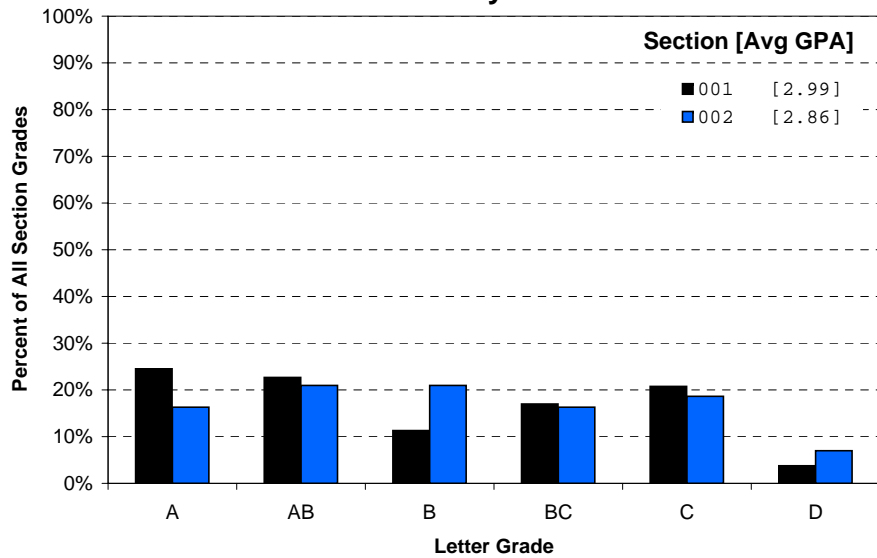
**M E 361 Thermodynamics**



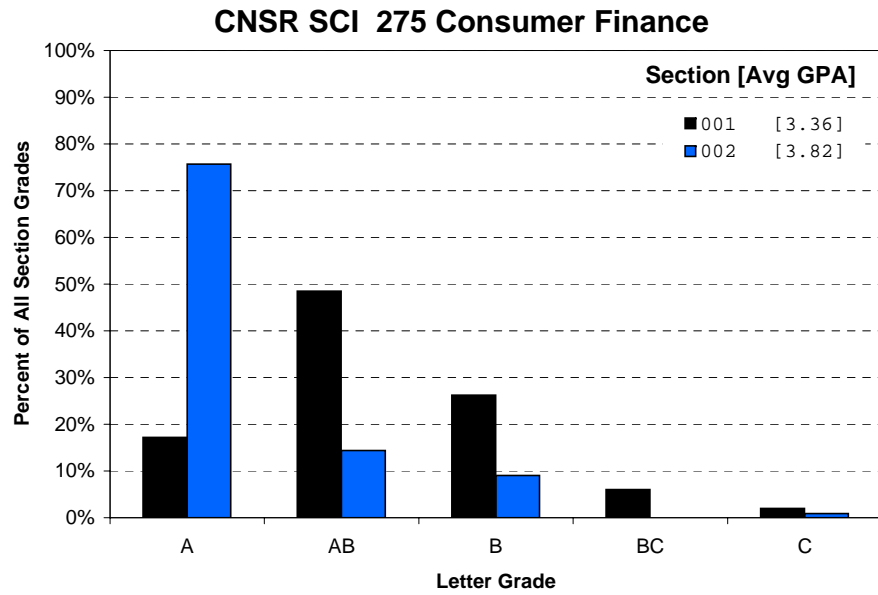
**M E 363 Fluid Dynamics**



**M E 364 Elementary Heat Transfer**

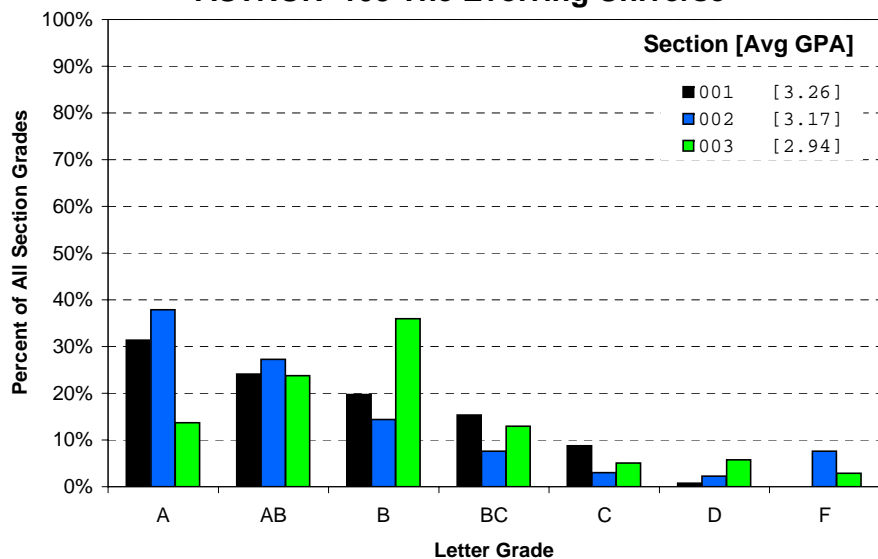


**Distribution of Fall 2008-09 Undergraduate Letter Grades in  
Courses Numbered Below 400 Having Multiple Classes of at Least 30 Undergraduates  
School of Human Ecology**

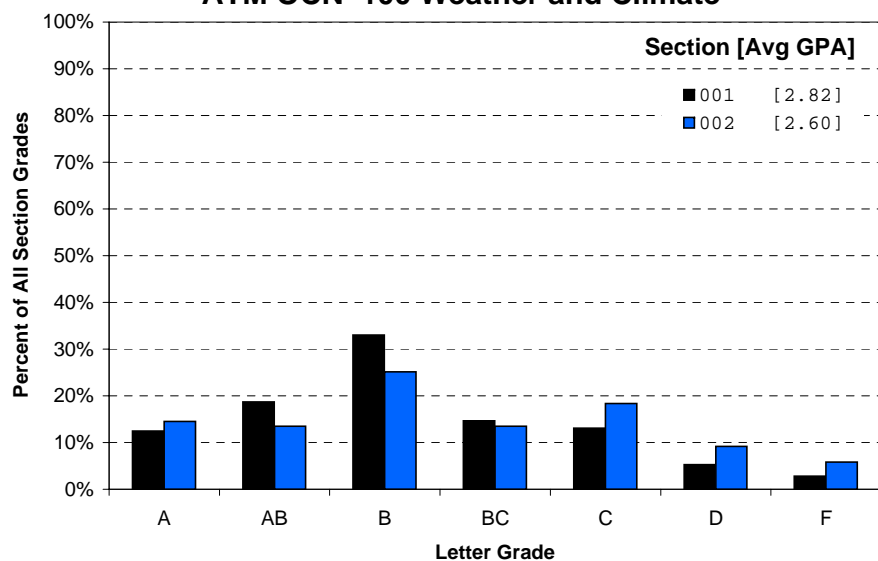


**Distribution of Fall 2008-09 Undergraduate Letter Grades in  
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College of Letters and Science**

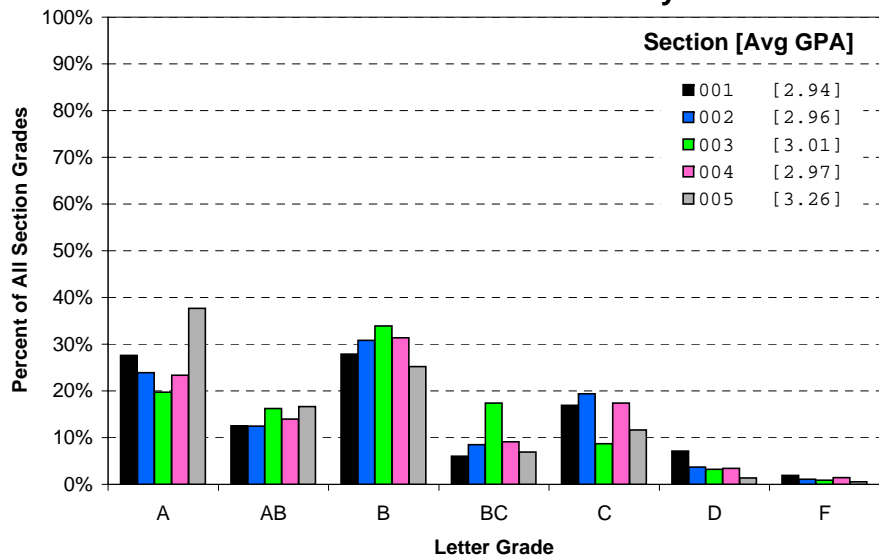
**ASTRON 103 The Evolving Universe**



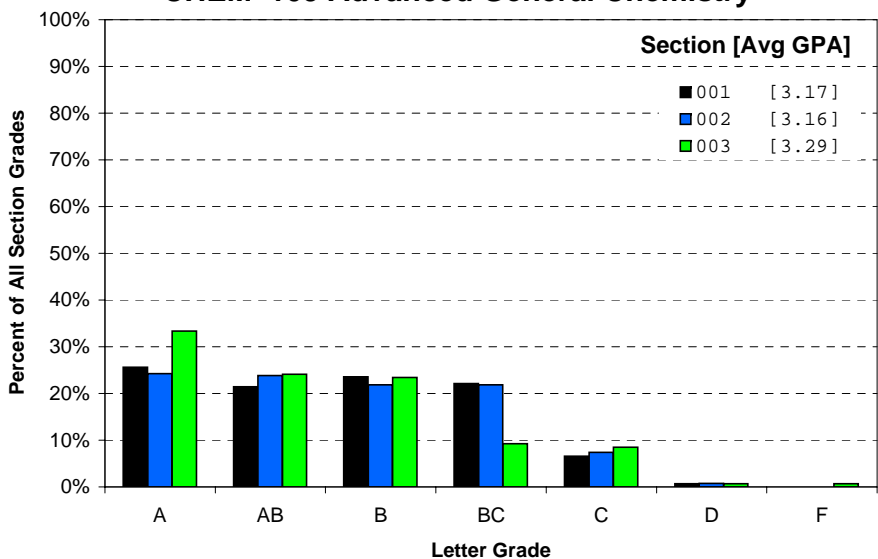
**ATM OCN 100 Weather and Climate**



**CHEM 103 General Chemistry**

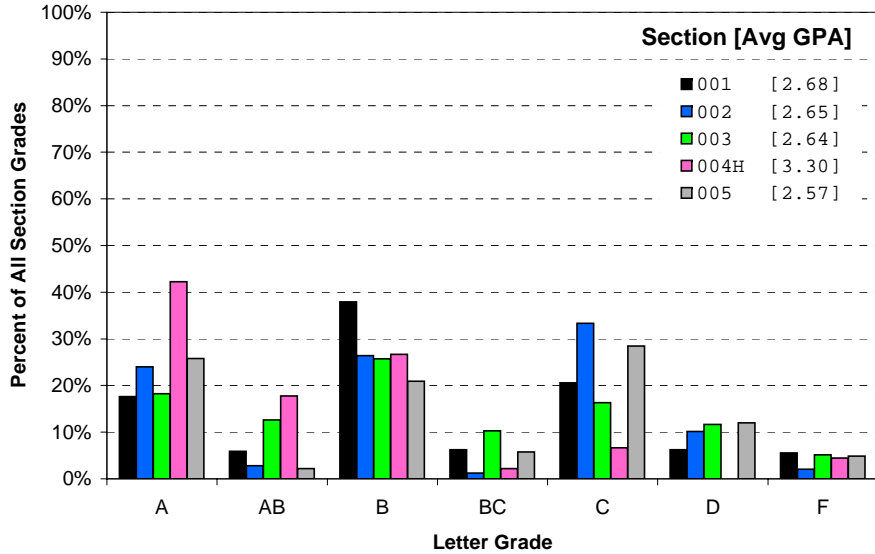


**CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry**

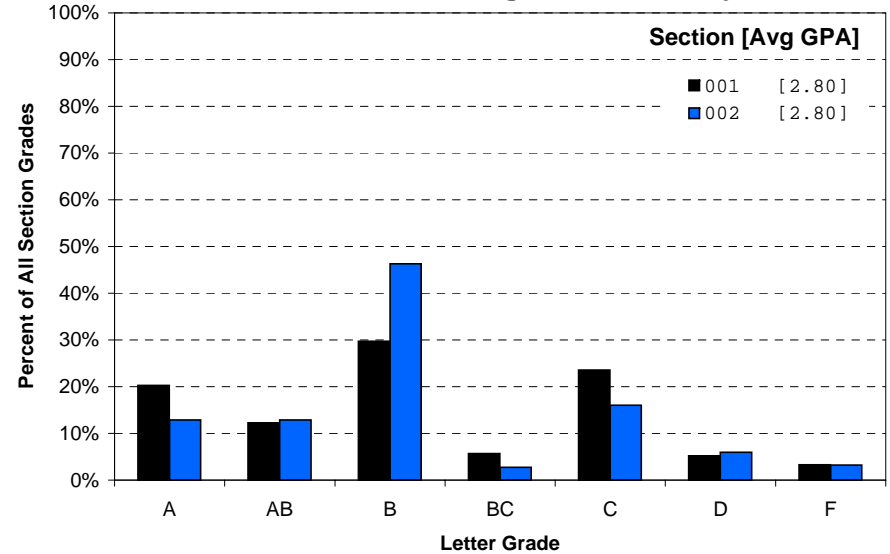


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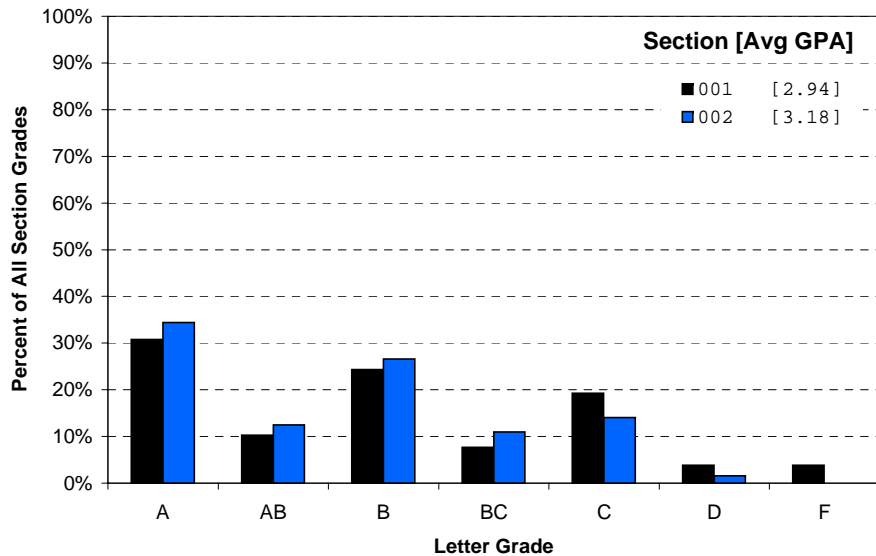
**CHEM 343 Intro Organic Chemistry**



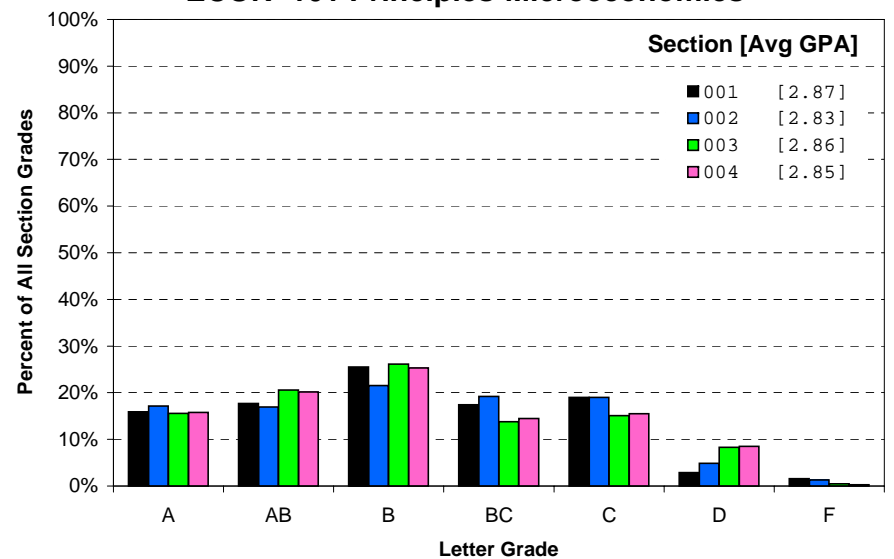
**CHEM 345 Intmed Organic Chemistry**



**COMP SCI 367 Intro to Data Structures**

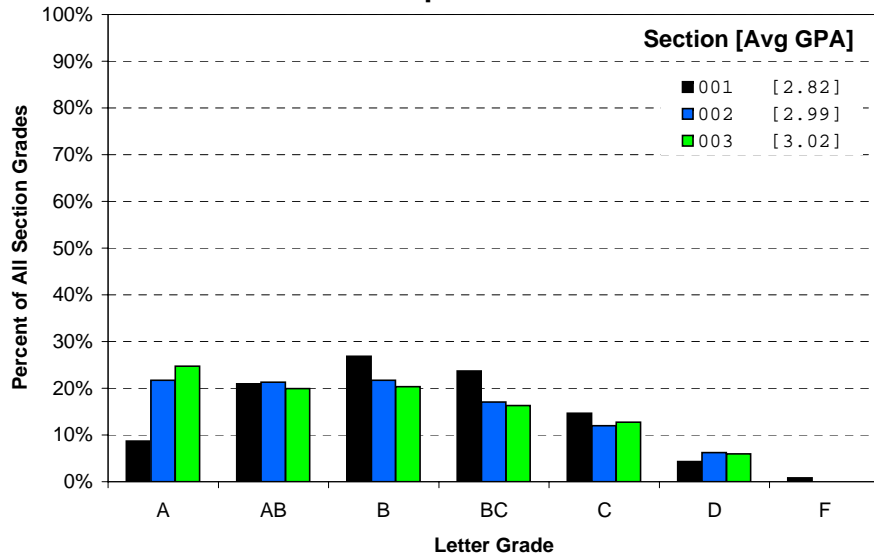


**ECON 101 Principles-Microeconomics**

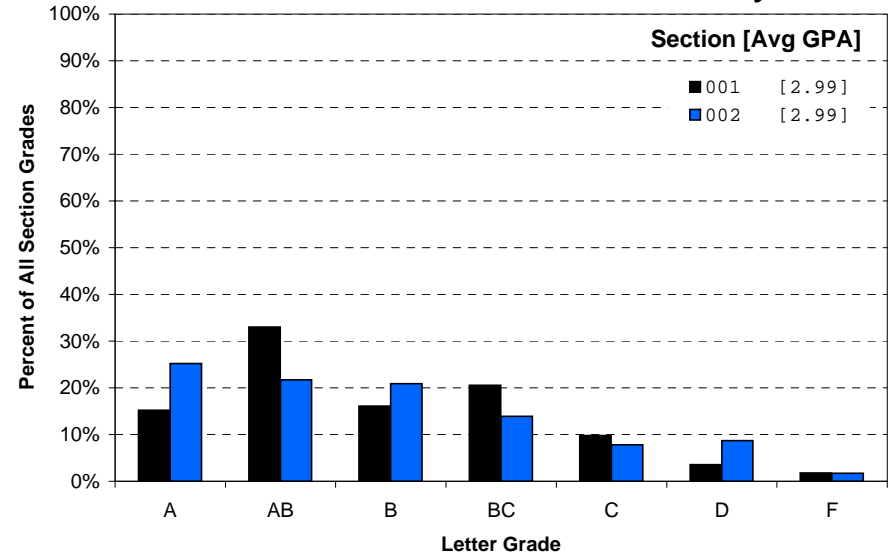


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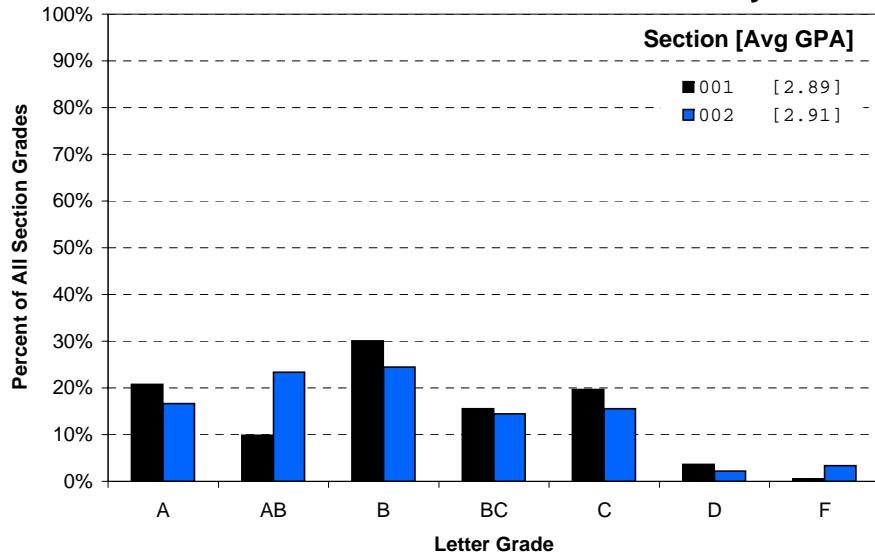
**ECON 102 Principles-Macroeconomics**



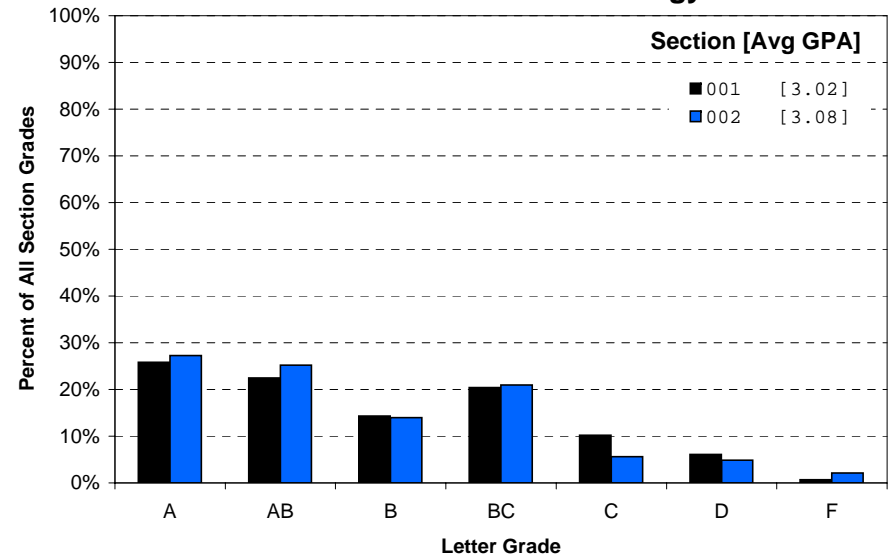
**ECON 301 Intmed Microeconomic Theory**



**ECON 302 Intmed Macroeconomic Theory**



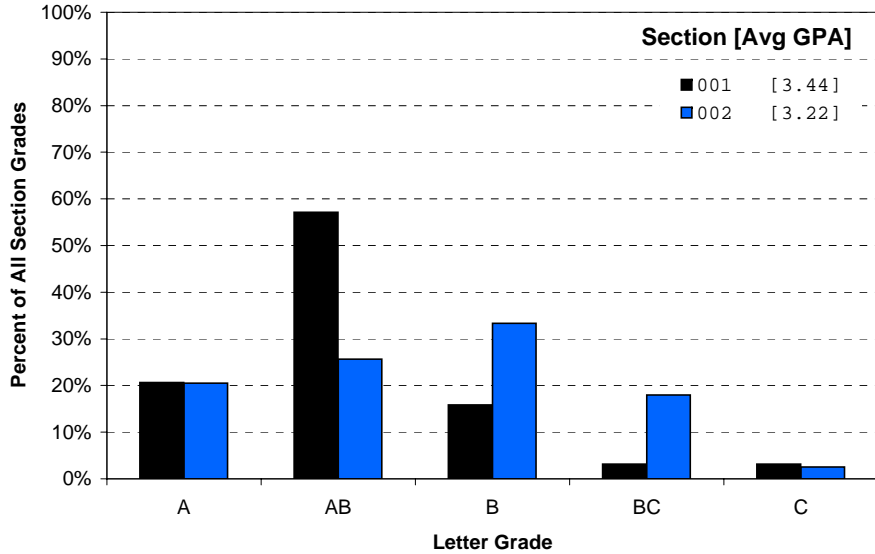
**GEOLOGY 100 General Geology**



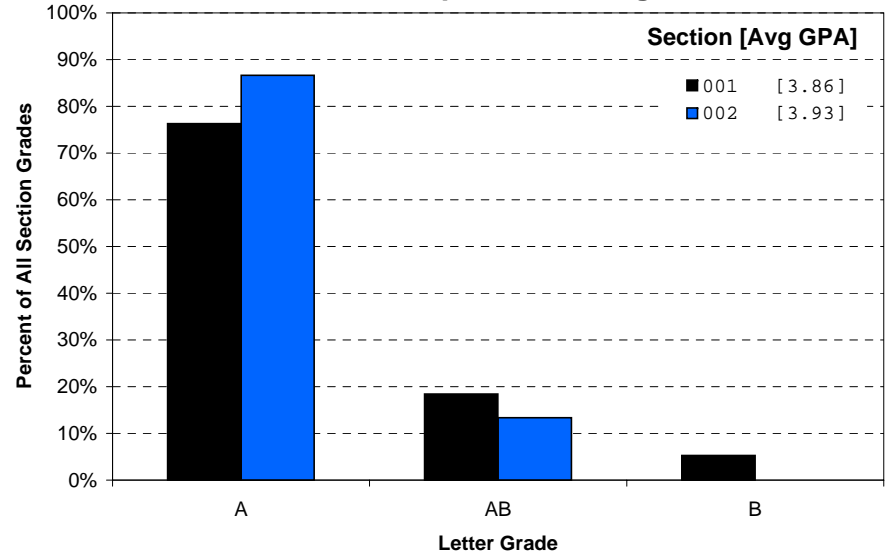


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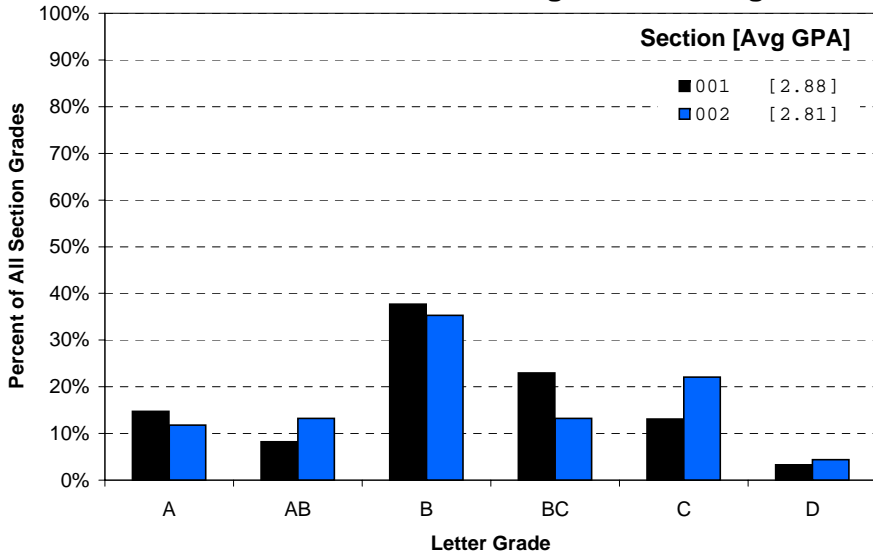
**HISTORY 223 Exploration-European Hist (H)**



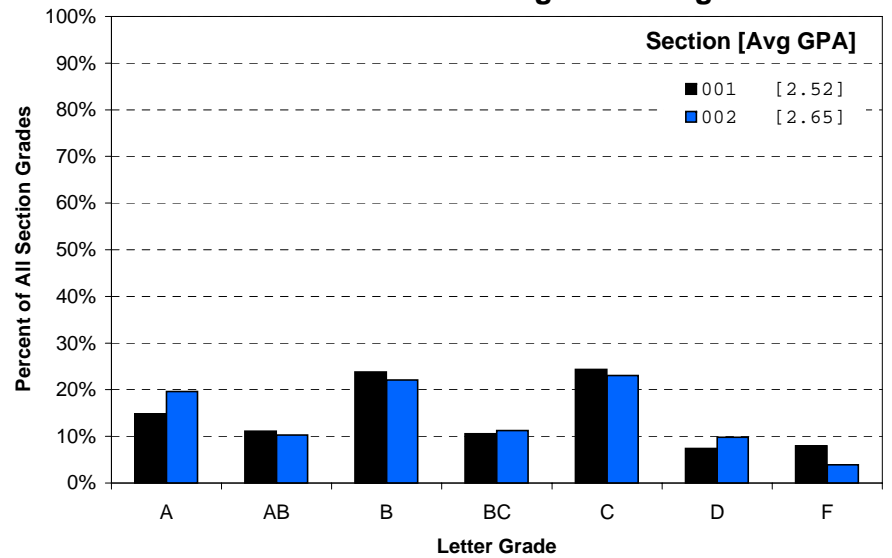
**JOURN 345 Principles of Strategic Com**



**MATH 141 Quant Reasoning&Prob Solvng**

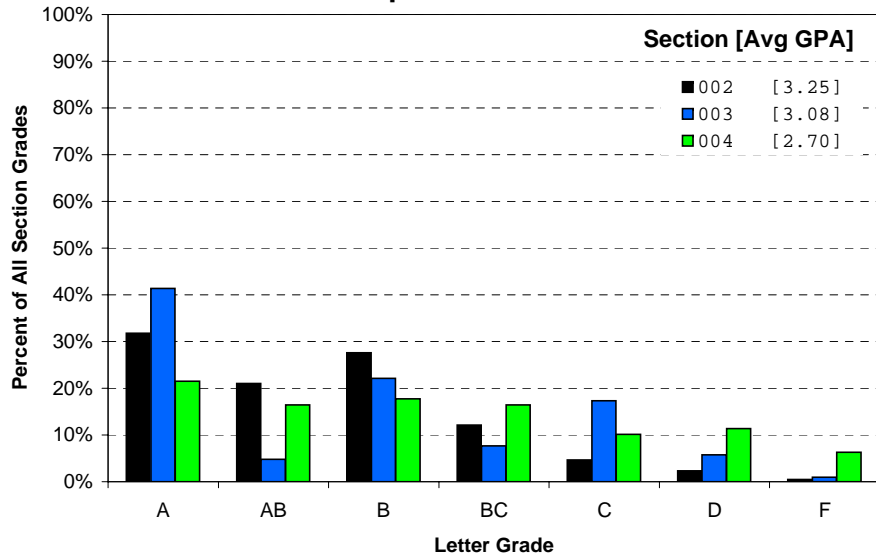


**MATH 171 Calc with Algebra & Trig I**

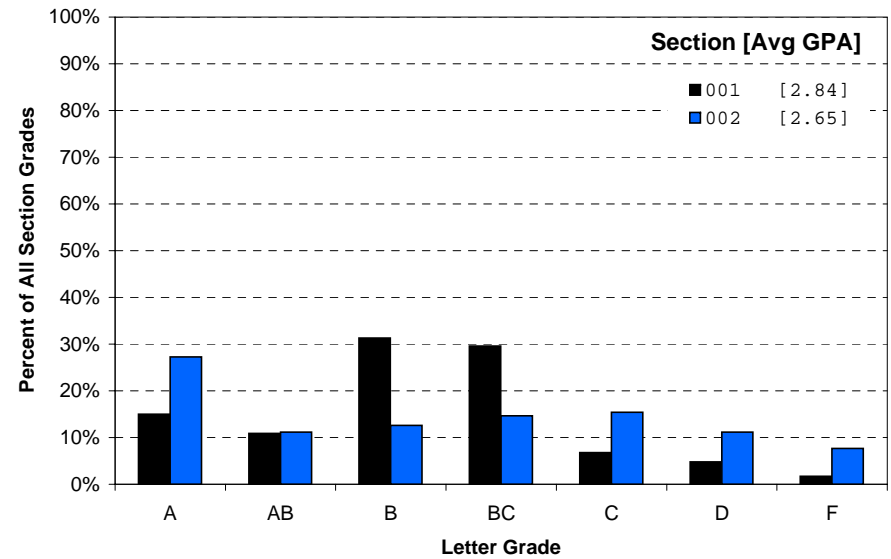


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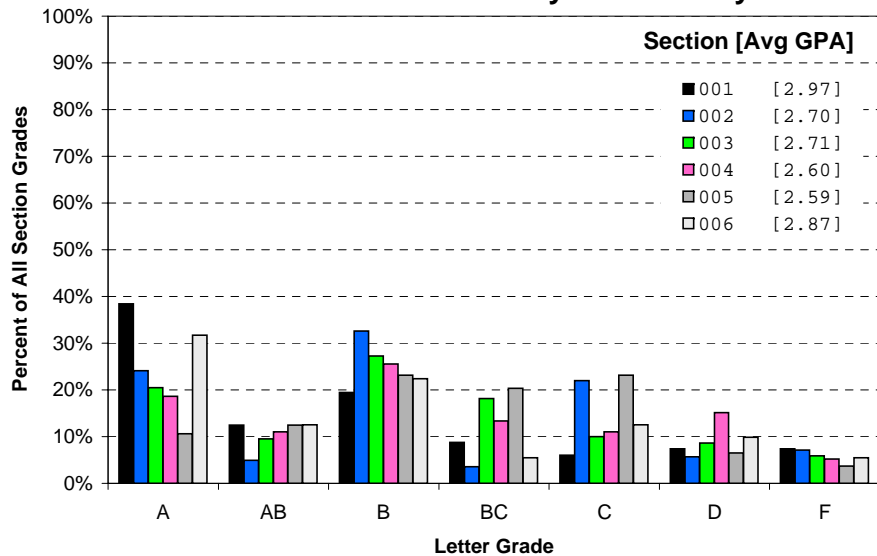
**MATH 210 Topics-Finite Mathematics**



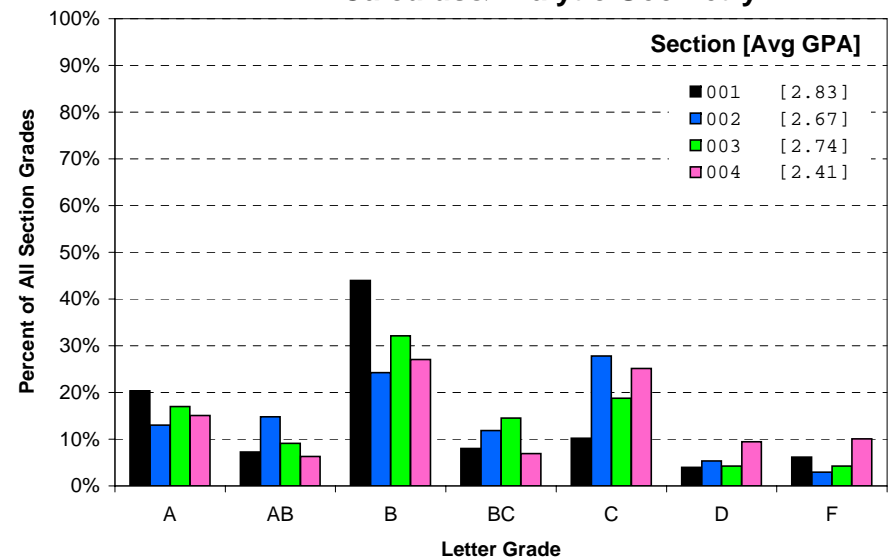
**MATH 211 Calculus**



**MATH 221 Calculus&Analytic Geometry**

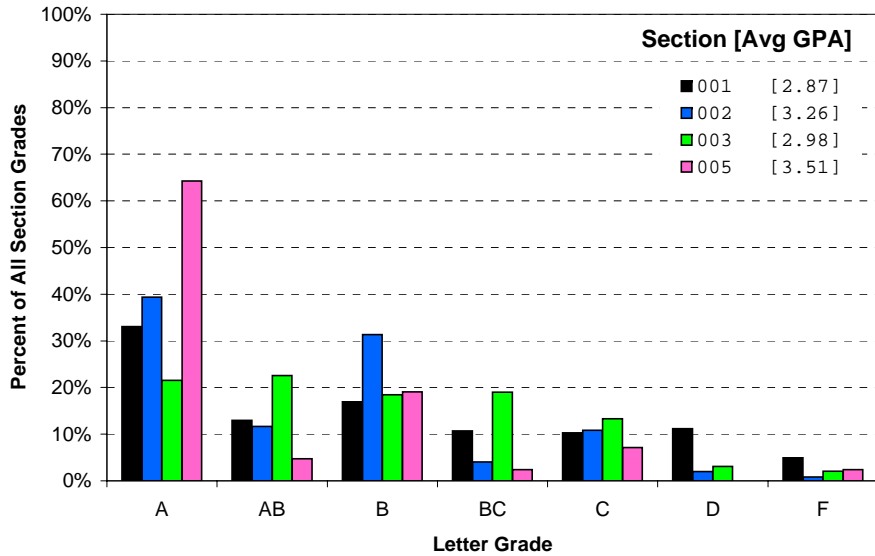


**MATH 222 Calculus&Analytic Geometry**

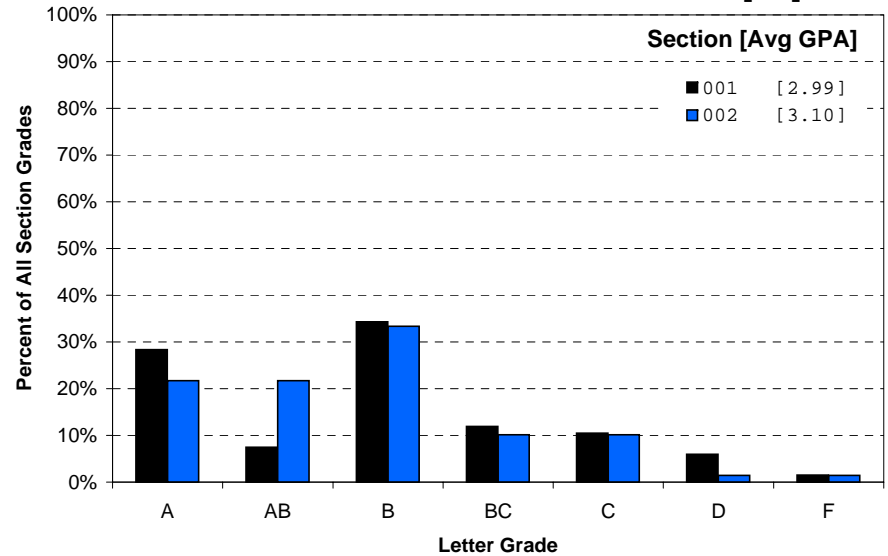


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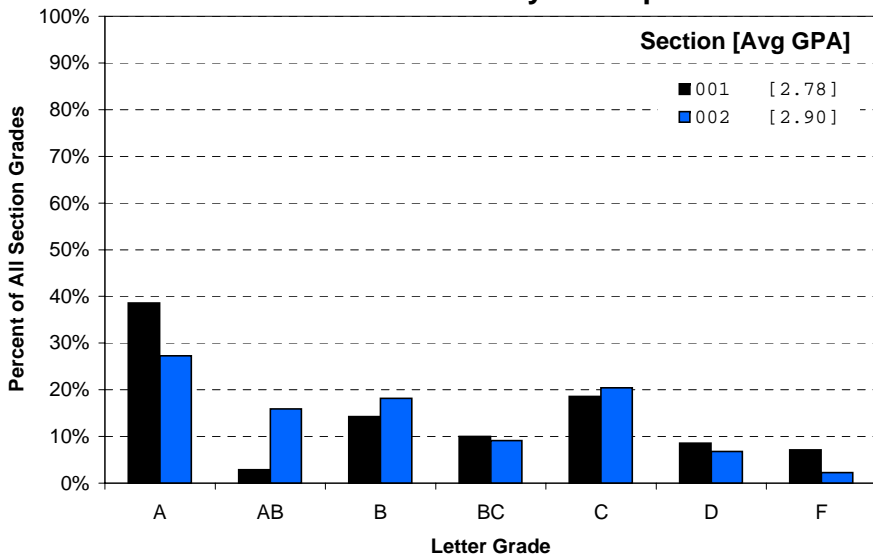
**MATH 234 Calc--Functns of Variables**



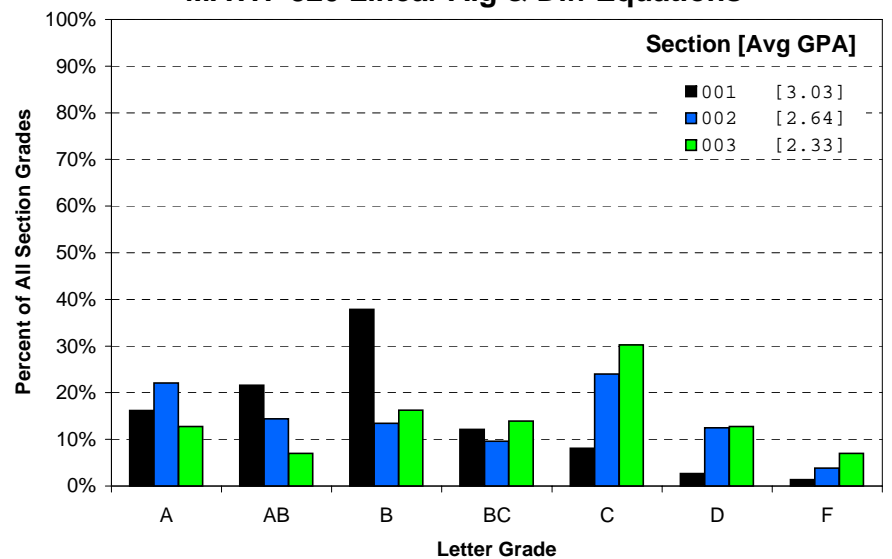
**MATH 240 Intro to Discrete Mathematics [XL]**



**MATH 319 Tech-Ordinary Diff Equation**

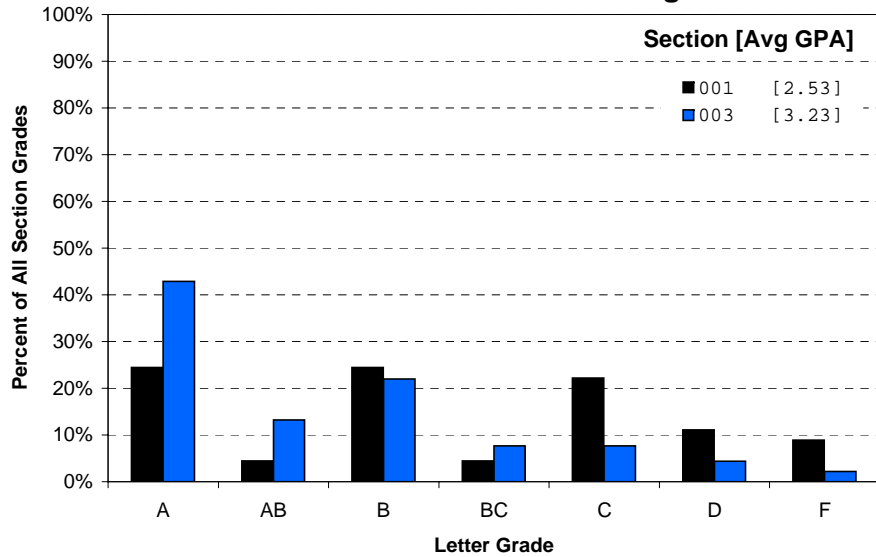


**MATH 320 Linear Alg & Diff Equations**

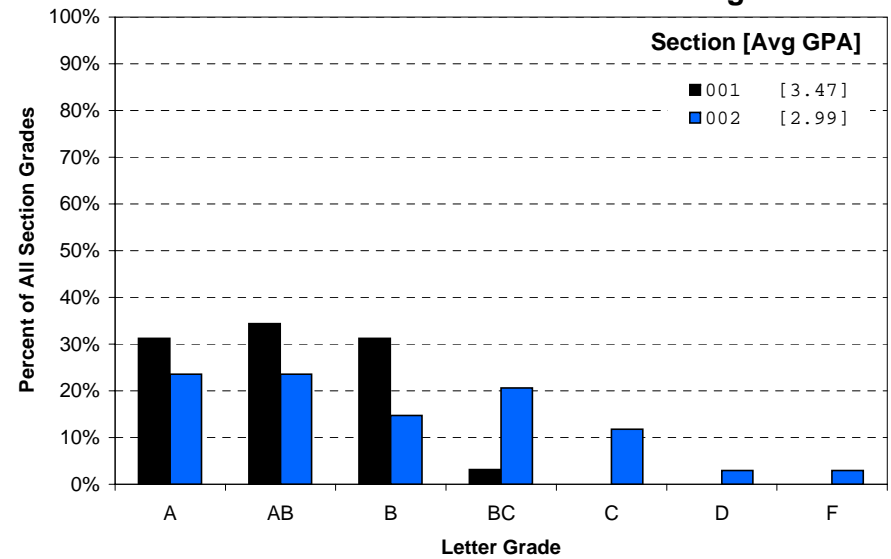


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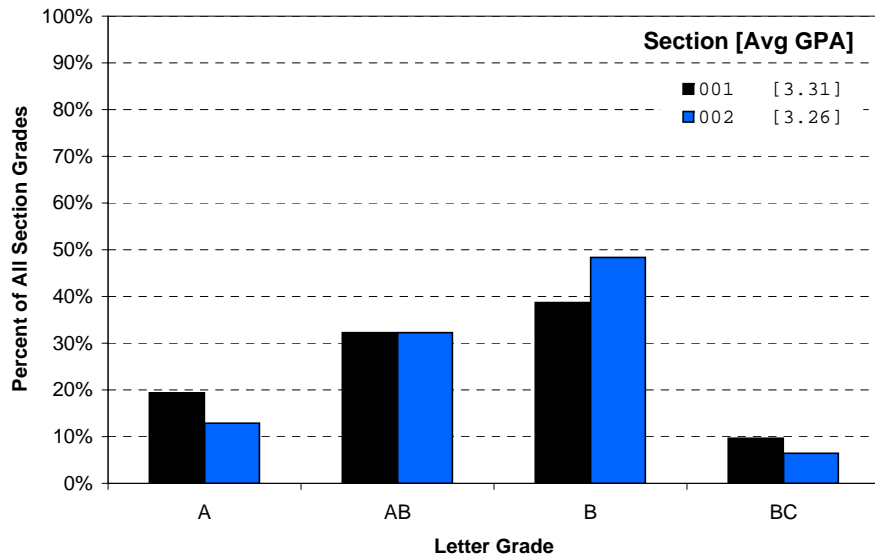
**MATH 340 Elem Matrix&Linear Algebra**



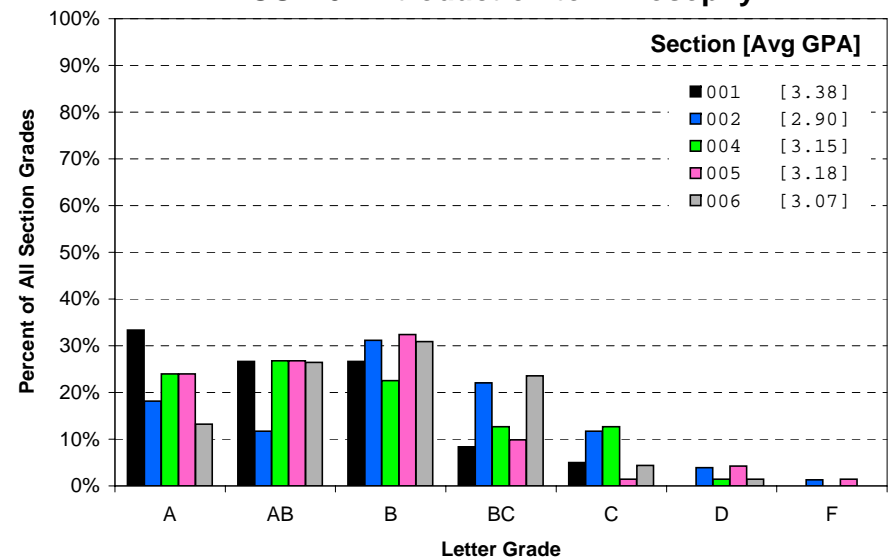
**MATH 375 Multi-Var Calc & Linear Alg**



**MUSIC 221 Musica Practica 3**

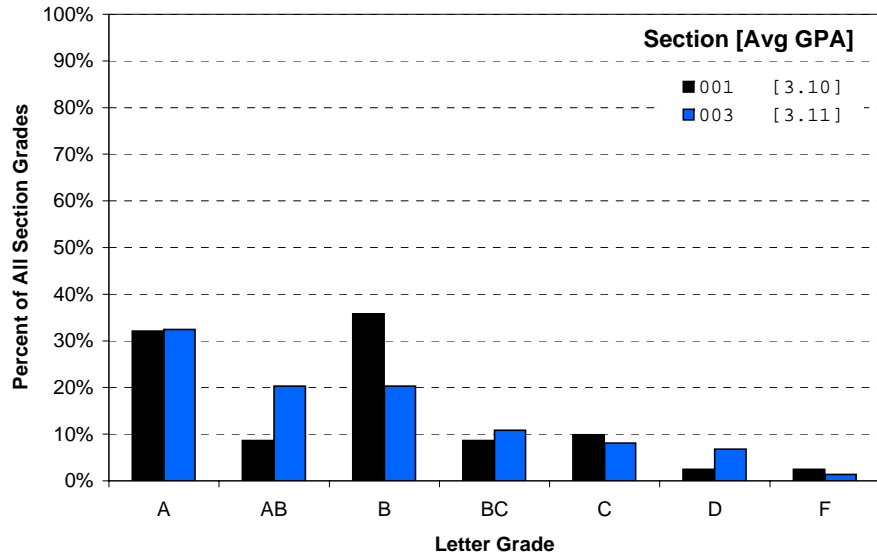


**PHILOS 101 Introduction to Philosophy**

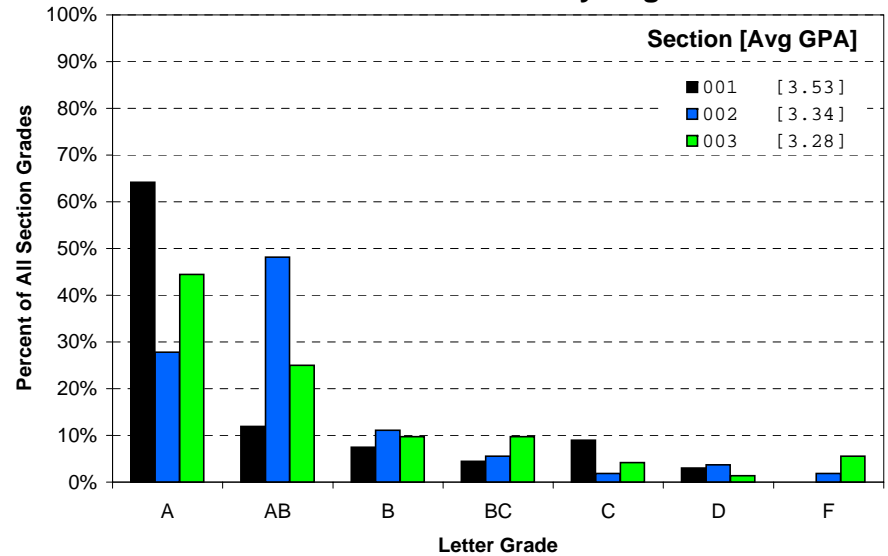


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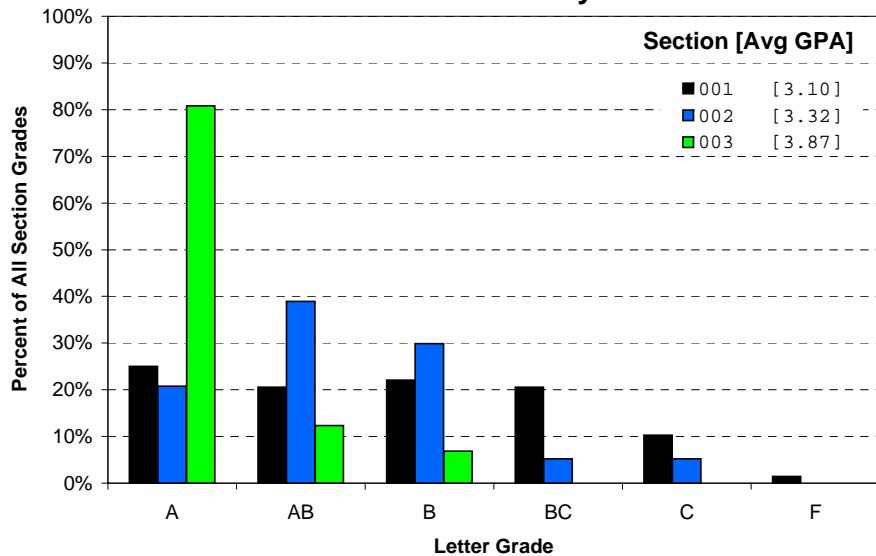
**PHILOS 210 Reason in Communication**



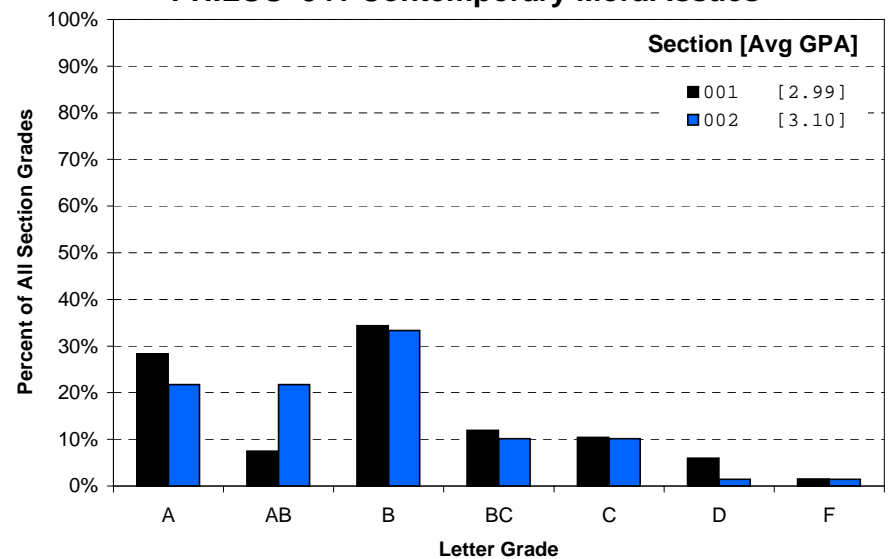
**PHILOS 211 Elementary Logic**



**PHILOS 241 Introductory Ethics**

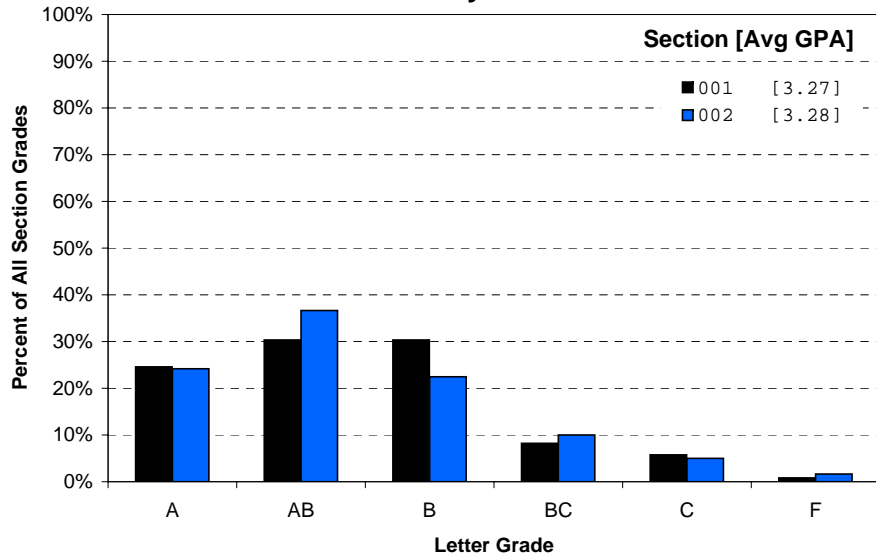


**PHILOS 341 Contemporary Moral Issues**

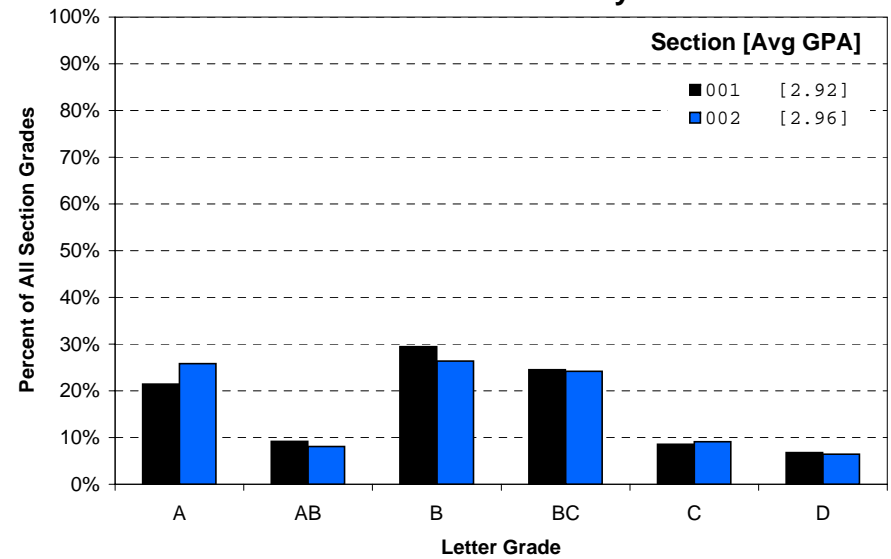


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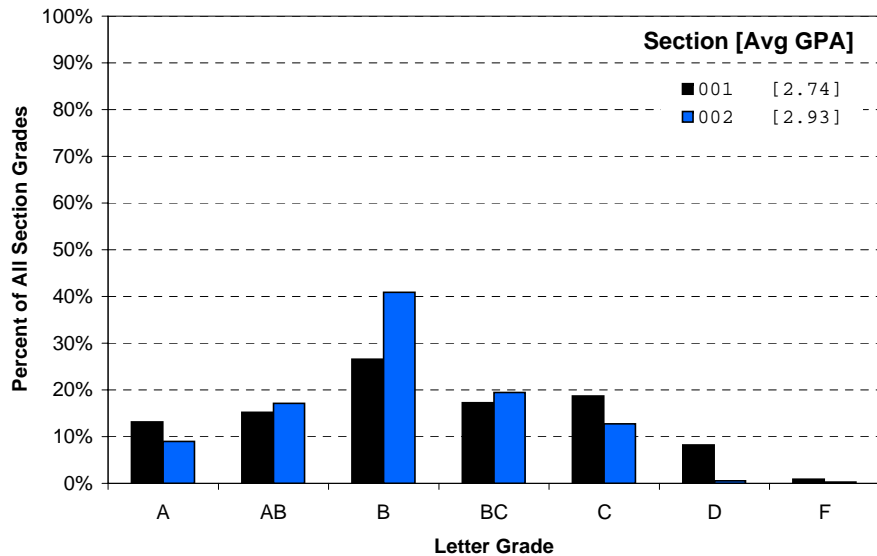
**PHYSICS 109 Physics in the Arts**



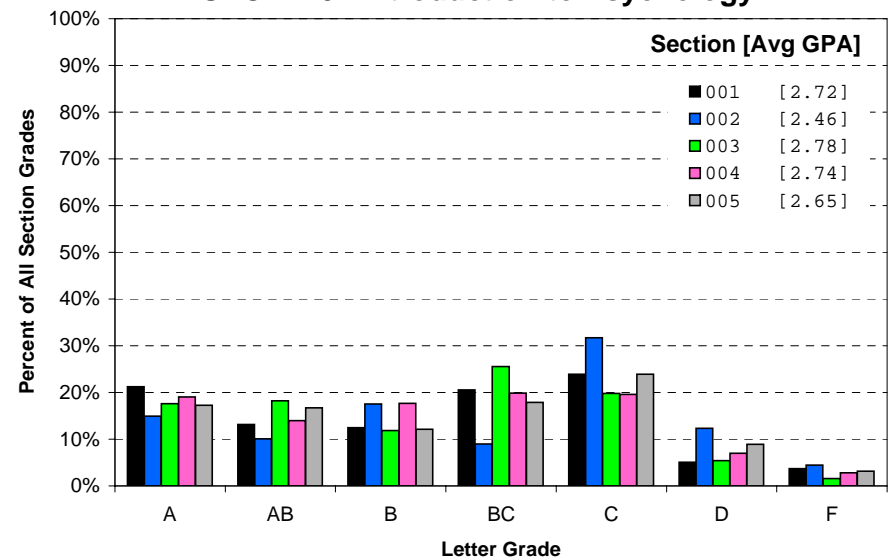
**PHYSICS 202 General Physics**



**POLI SCI 104 Intro-Amer Politcs&Governmt**

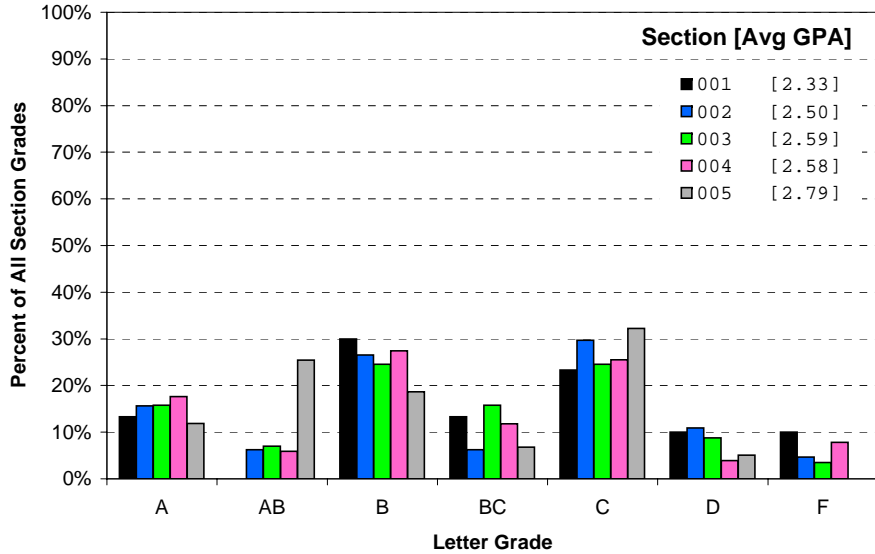


**PSYCH 202 Introduction to Psychology**

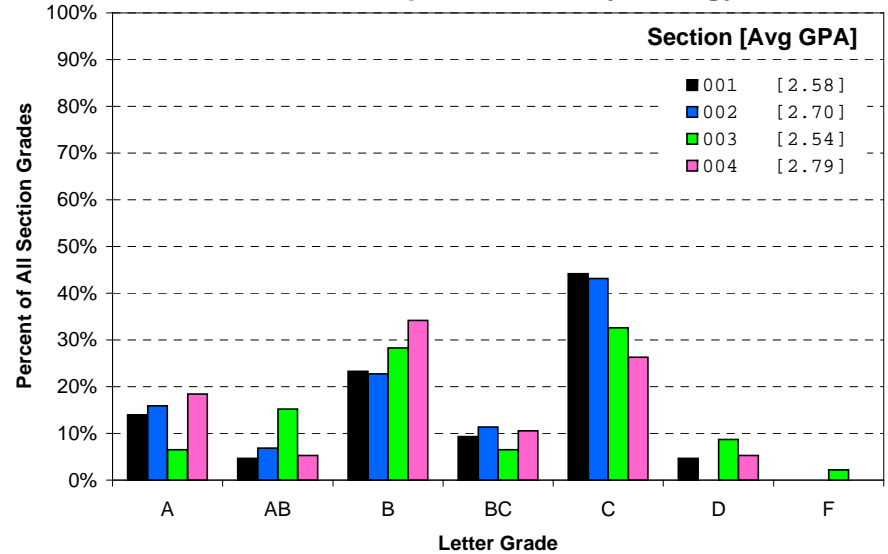


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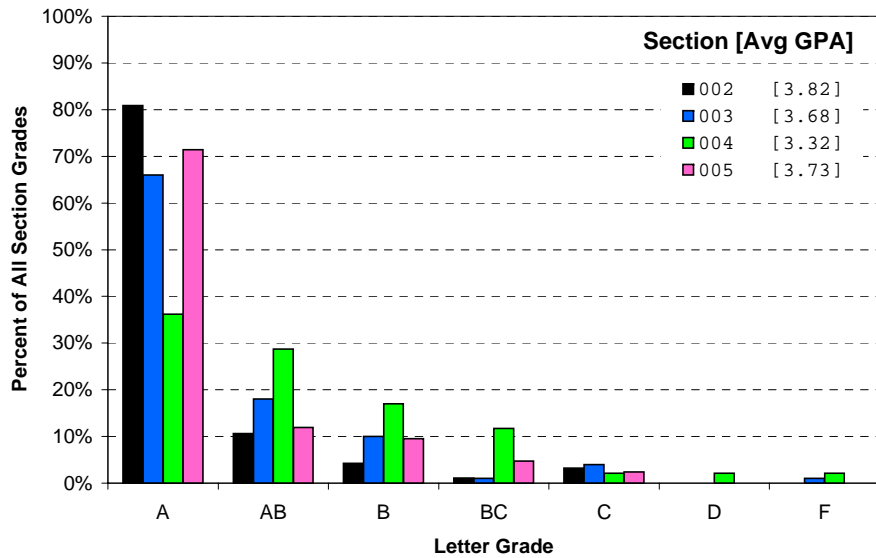
**PSYCH 210 Basic Stats for Psychology**



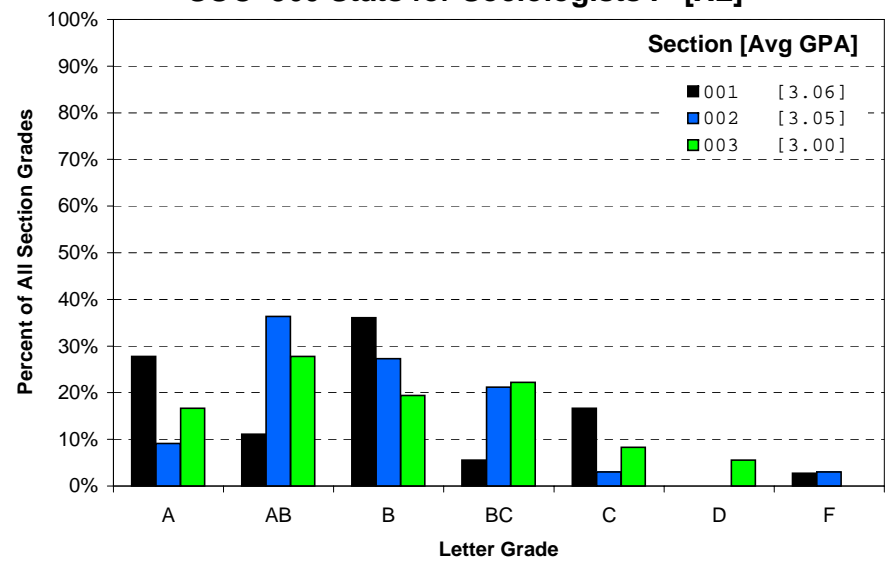
**PSYCH 225 Experimental Psychology**



**SOC 134 Am Racial&Ethnic Minorities**

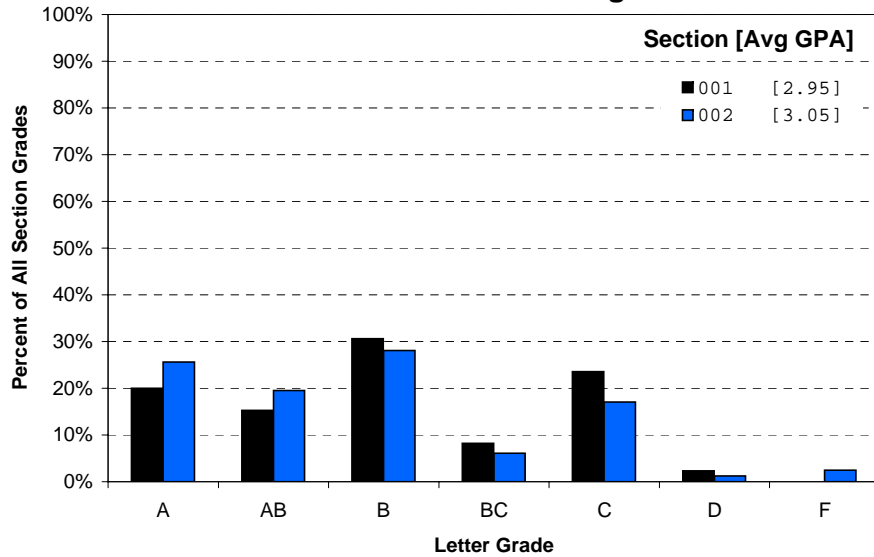


**SOC 360 Stats for Sociologists I [XL]**

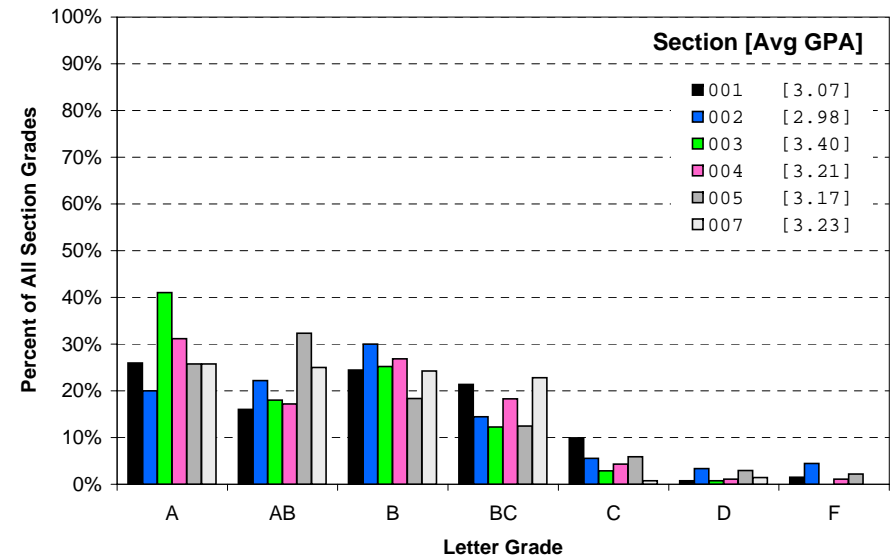


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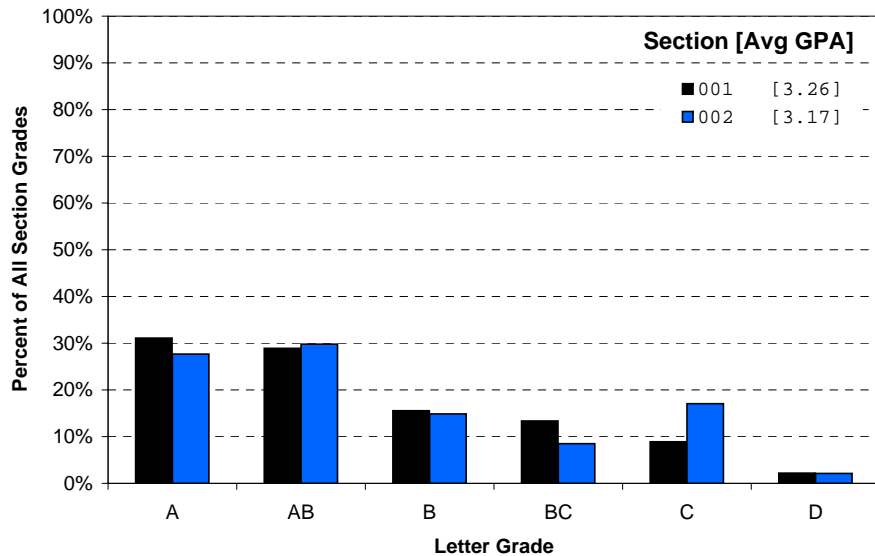
**STAT 224 Intro Stats for Engineers**



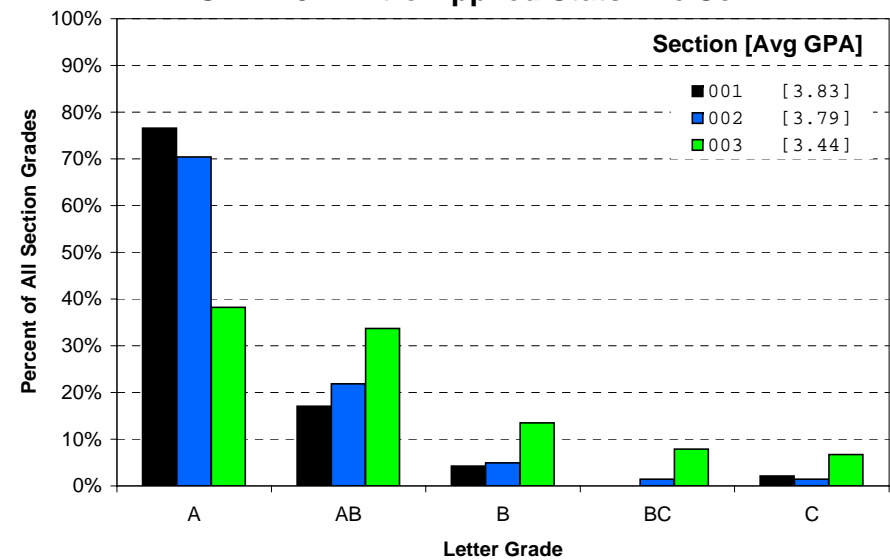
**STAT 301 Intro-Statistical Methods**



**STAT 311 Intro to Mathematical Stat**



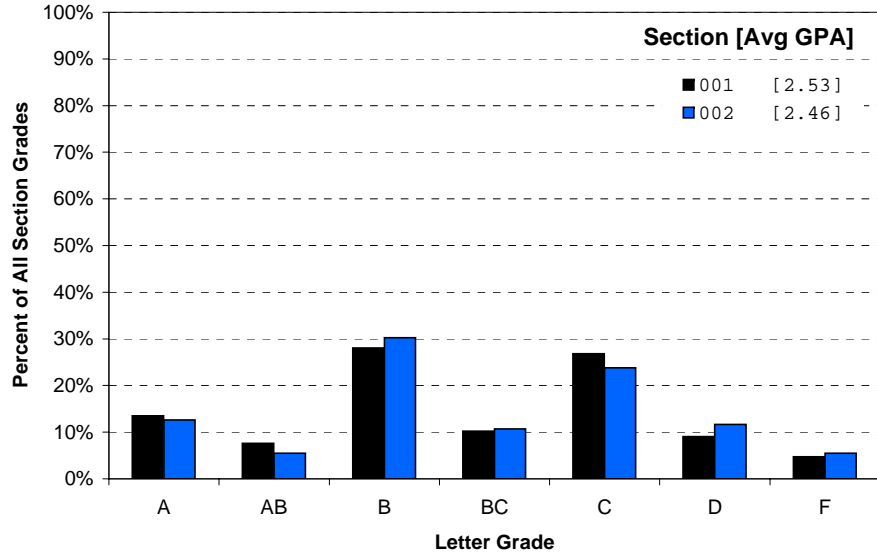
**STAT 371 Intro Applied Stats-Life Sci**



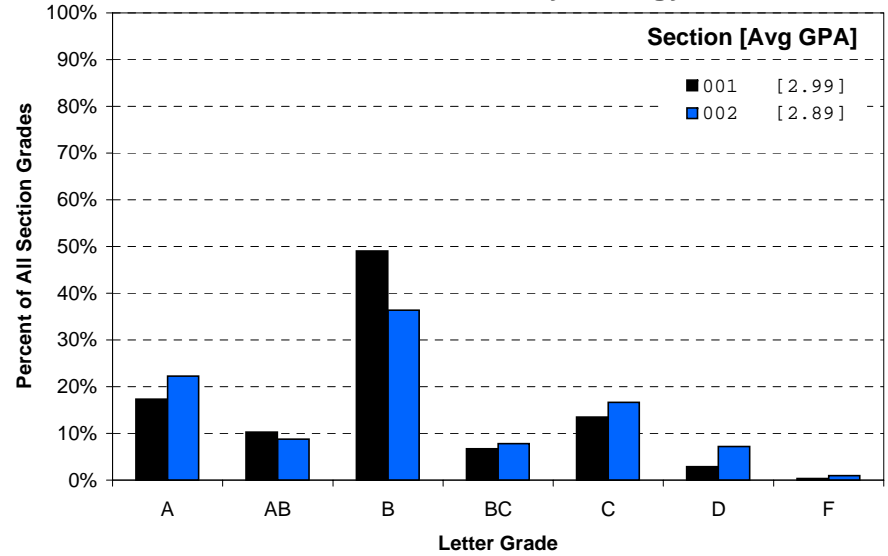


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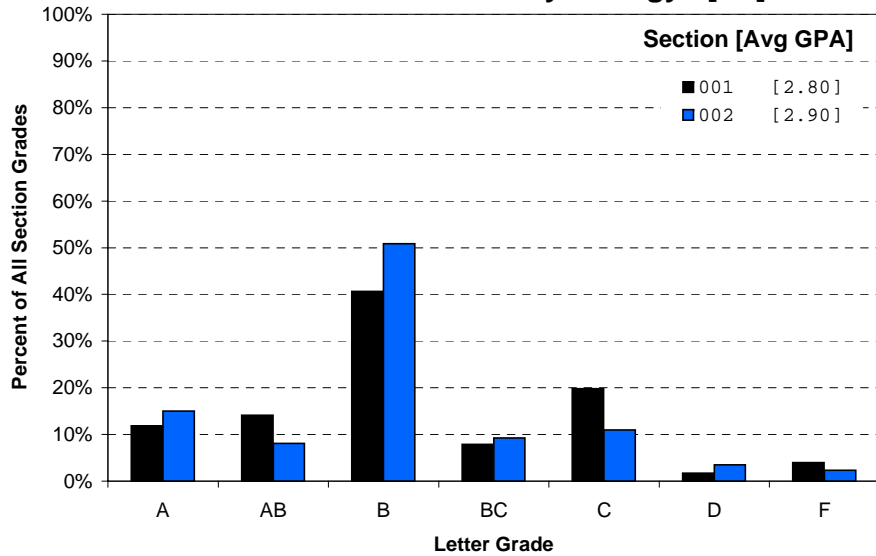
**ZOOLOGY 101 Animal Biology [XL]**



**ZOOLOGY 151 Introductory Biology [XL]**



**ZOOLOGY 152 Introductory Biology [XL]**



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School of Medicine & Public Health**

**ANATOMY 329 Human Anatomy-Kinesiology**

