



February 5, 2010

TO: Selected Academic Deans and Department Chairs

FROM: Paul M. DeLuca Jr., 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.

The attached document provides an updated analysis based on courses taught in Fall 2009 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.

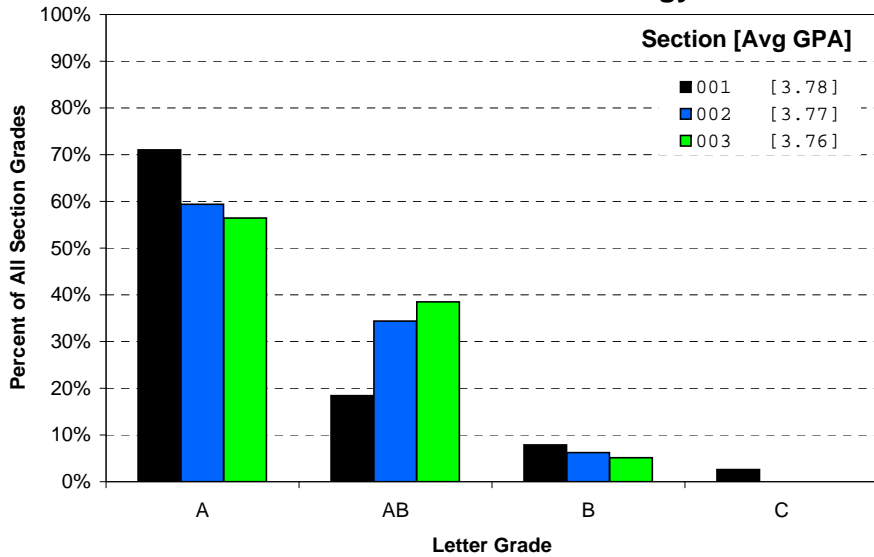
In many of the courses shown in the charts, the grade distributions of the multiple sections are similar. In some other courses, the distribution of grades varies considerably between sections of the same course. Real differences in student abilities may account for some of this variation. However, another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

cc: University Academic Planning Council

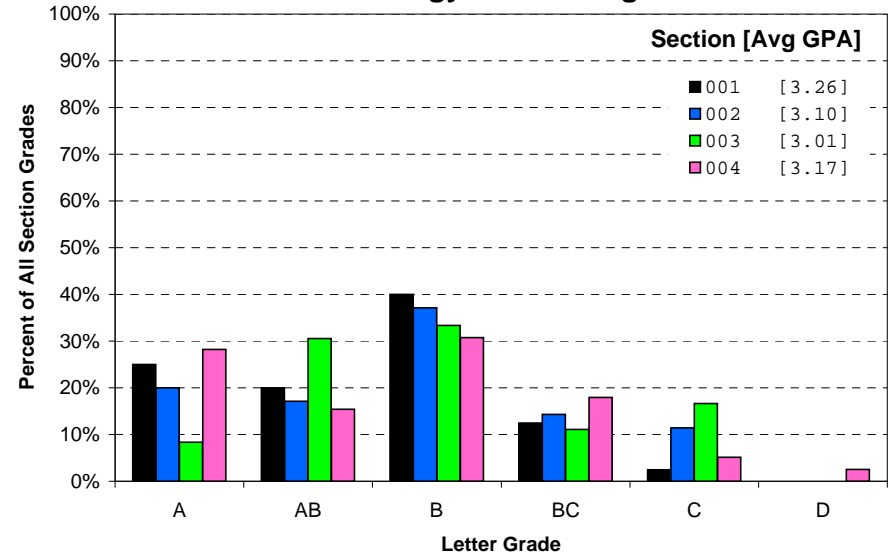
Attachment

**Distribution of Fall 2009-10 Undergraduate Letter Grades in
Courses Numbered Below 400 Having Multiple Classes of at Least 30 Undergraduates
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences**

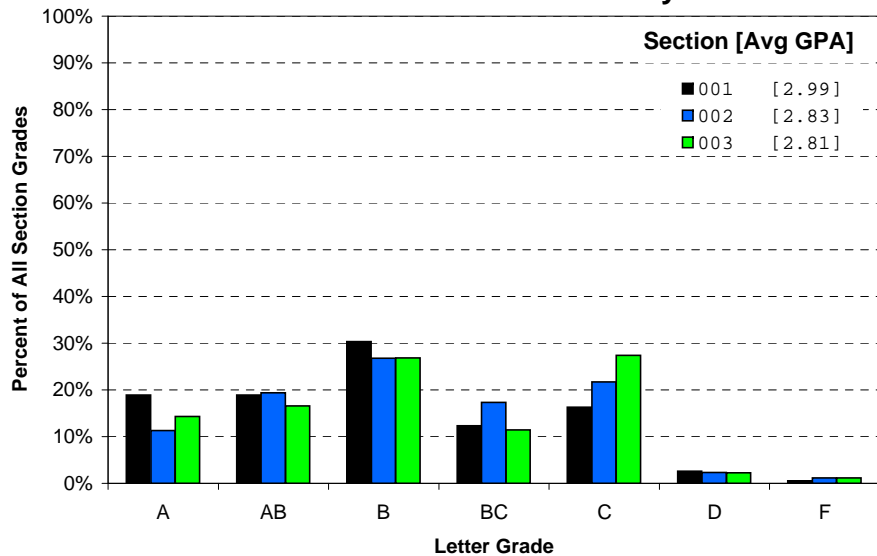
MICROBIO 102 General Microbiology Lab



MICROBIO 304 Biology of Microorganisms Lab

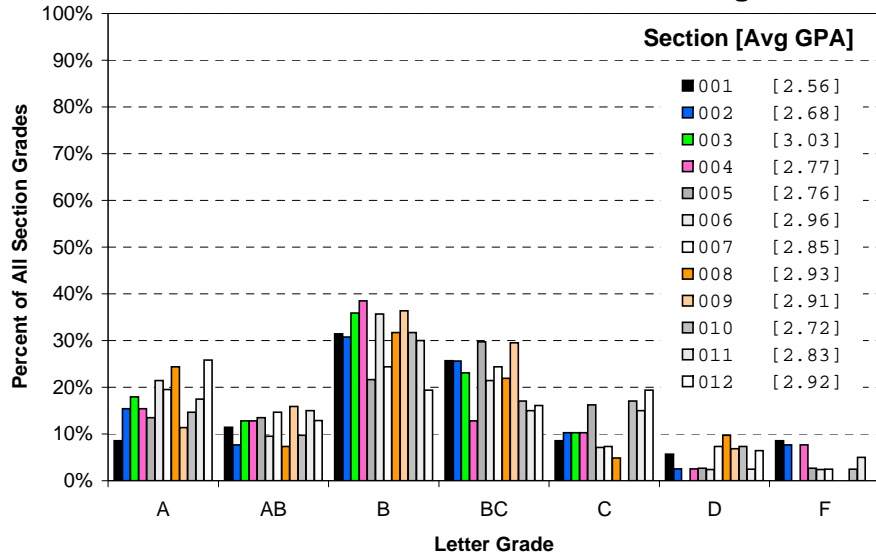


NUTR SCI 132 Nutrition Today

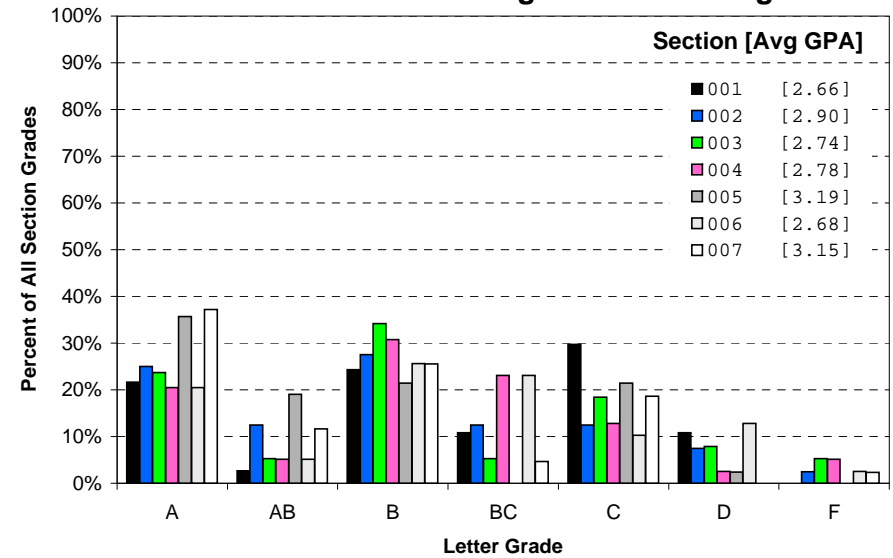


**Distribution of Fall 2009-10 Undergraduate Letter Grades in
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School of Business**

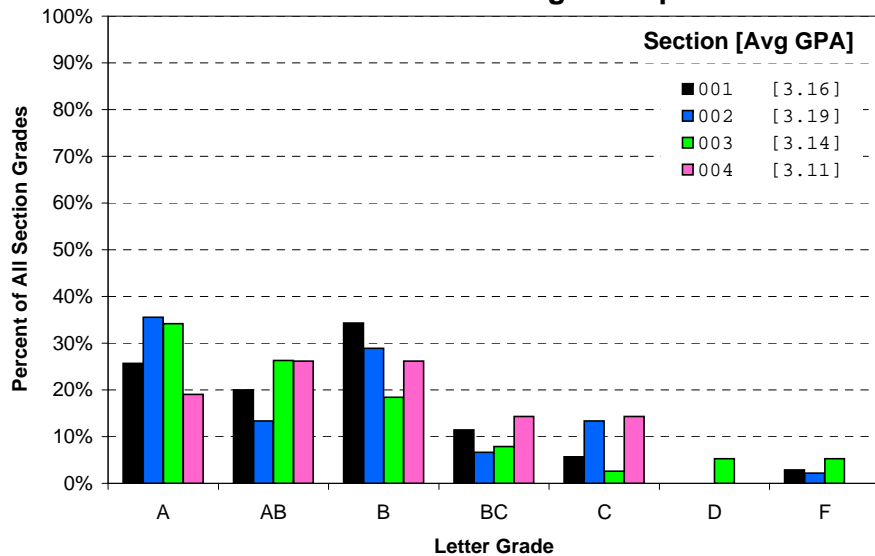
ACCT I S 100 Intro Financial Accounting



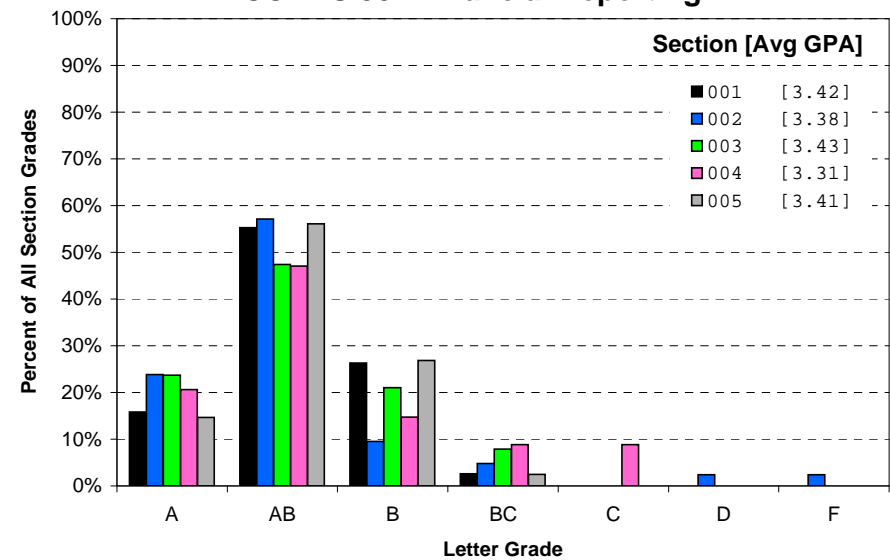
ACCT I S 211 Intro Managerial Accounting



ACCT I S 300 Accounting Principles

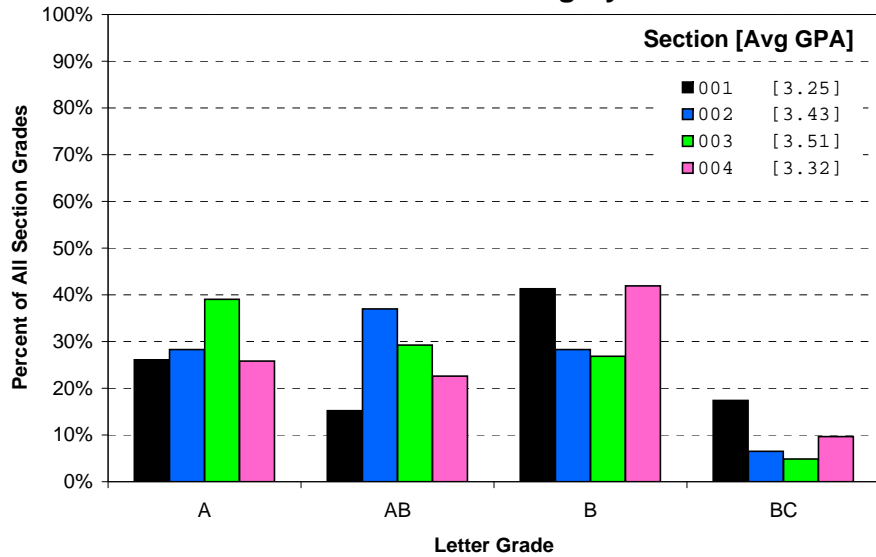


ACCT I S 301 Financial Reporting I

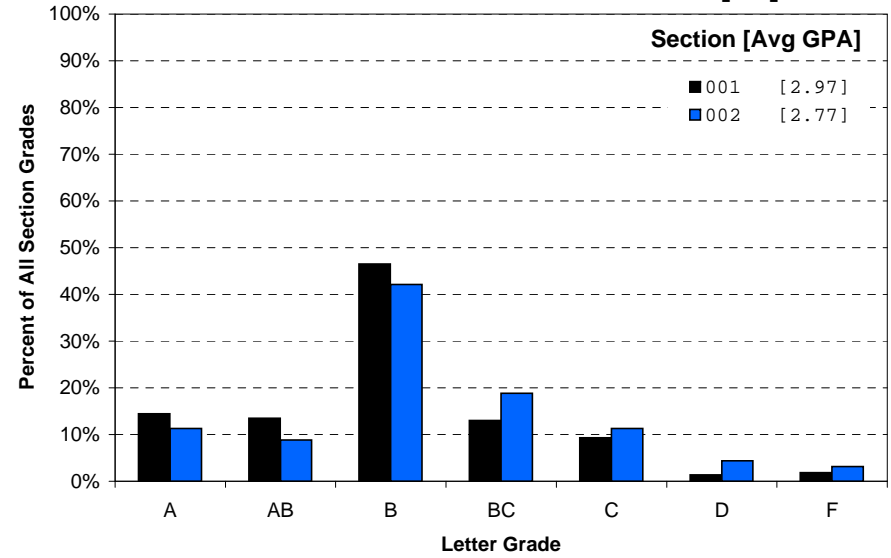


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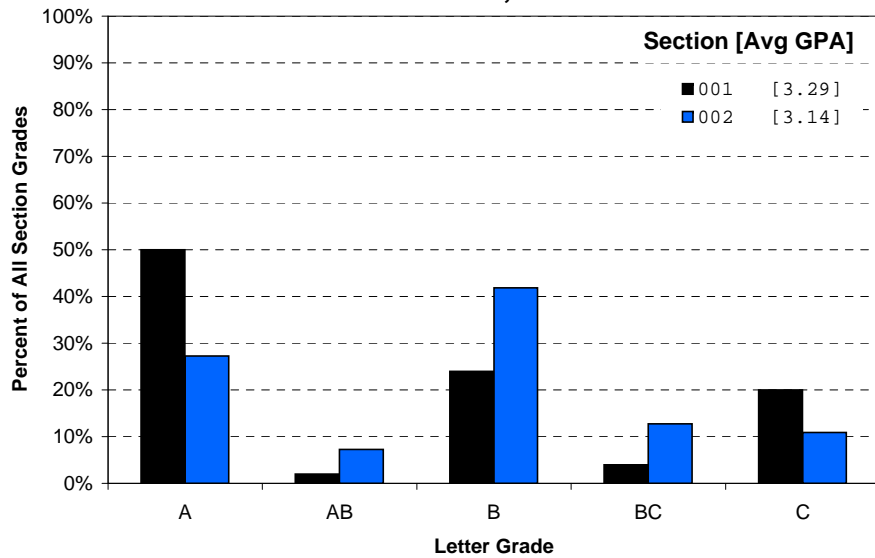
ACCT I S 340 Accounting Systems



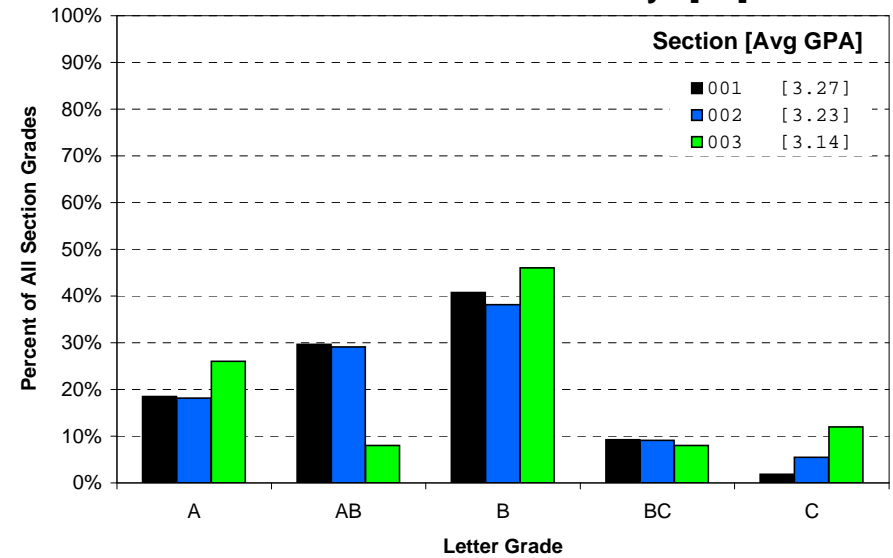
FINANCE 300 Introduction to Finance [XL]



FINANCE 305 Finc Mrkts,Instns&Econ Actv

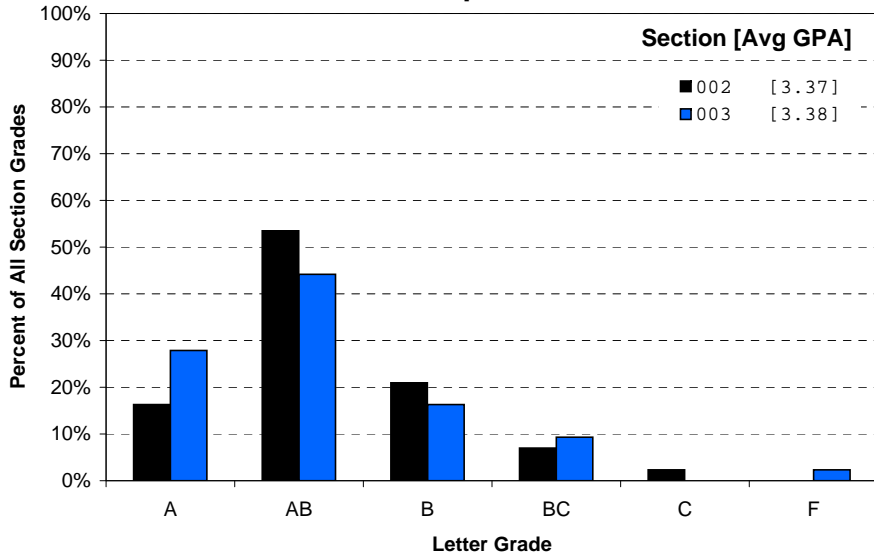


FINANCE 320 Investment Theory [XL]

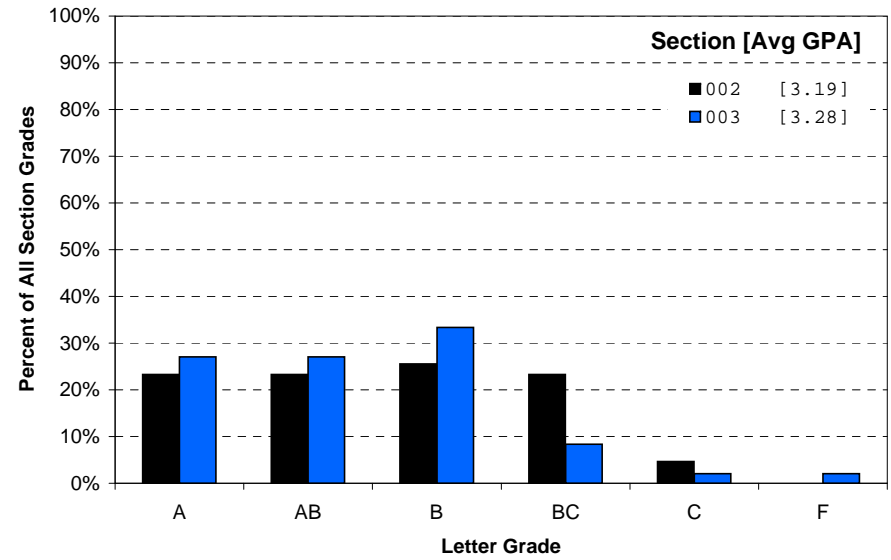


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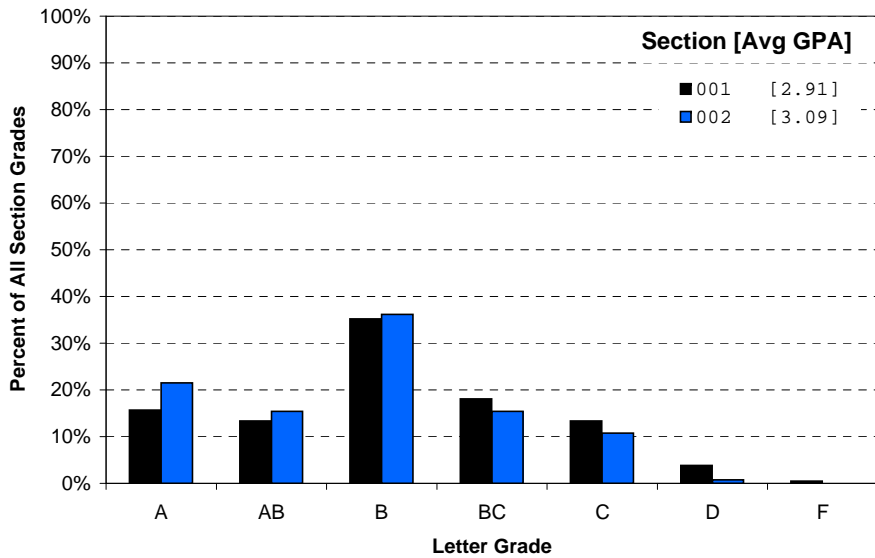
FINANCE 325 Corporation Finance



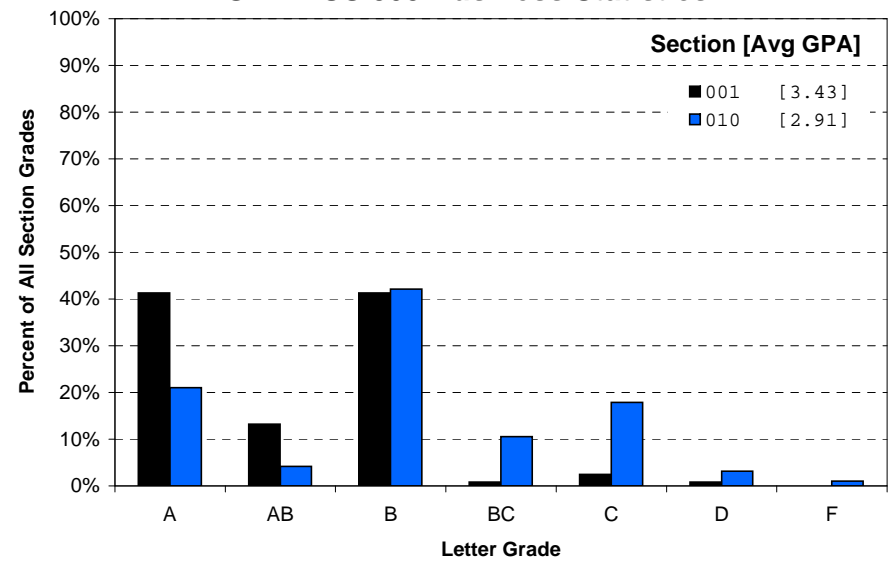
FINANCE 330 Derivative Securities



GEN BUS 301 Business Law

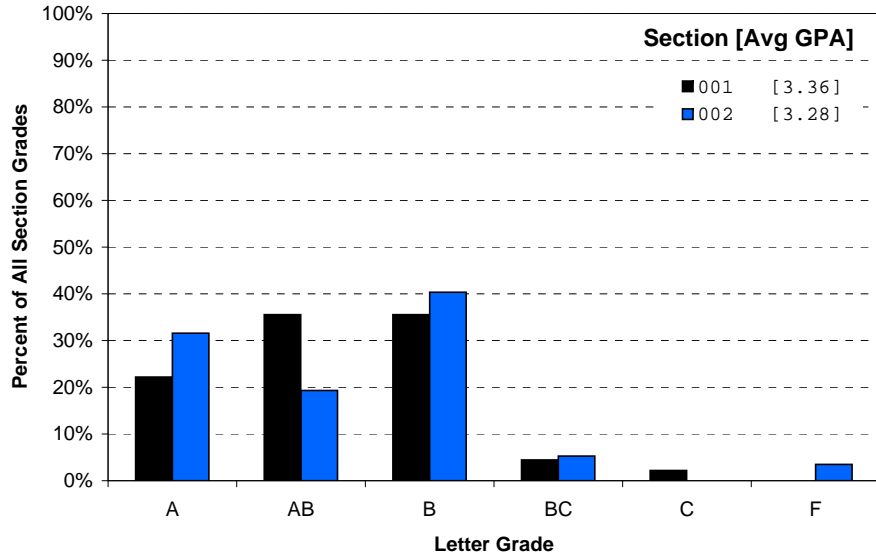


GEN BUS 303 Business Statistics

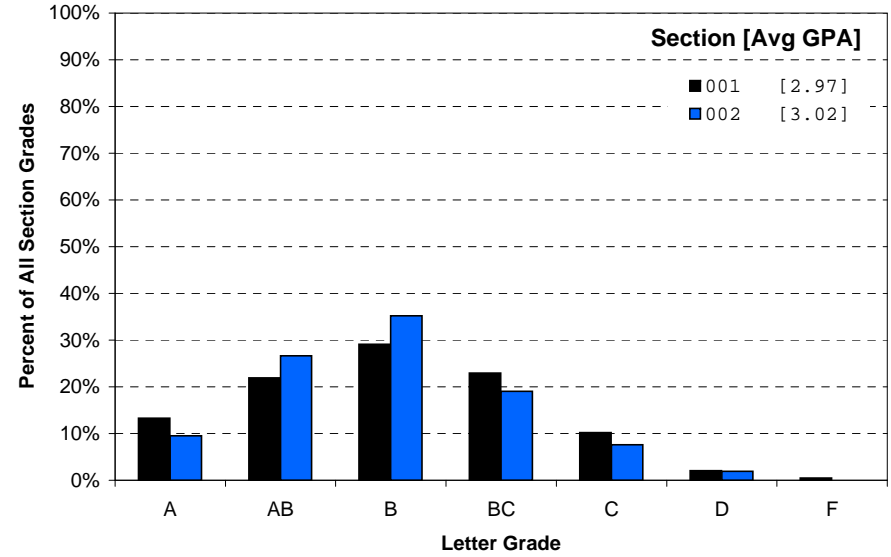


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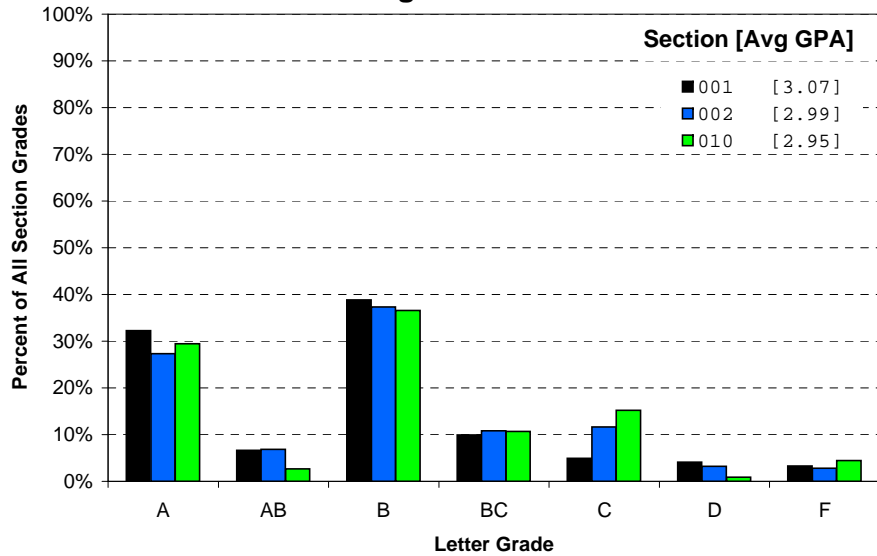
GEN BUS 304 Intermediate Bus Statistics



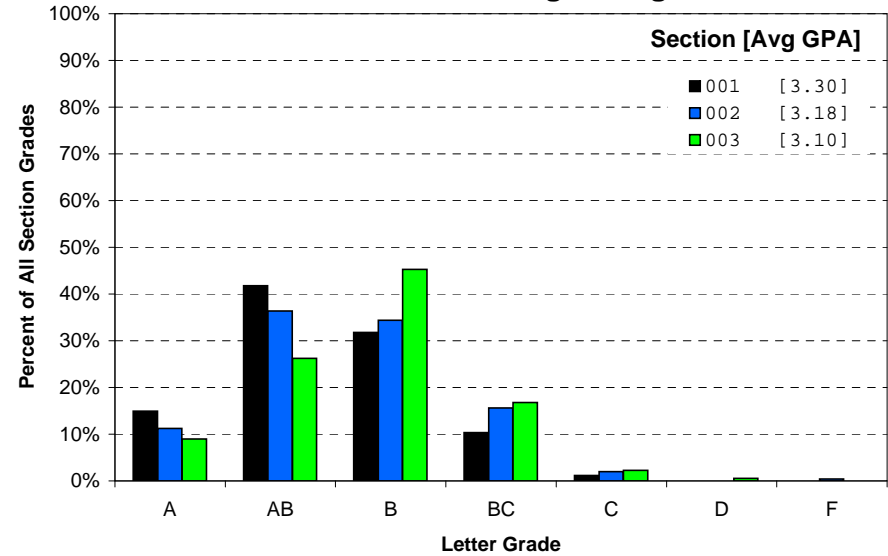
INTL BUS 200 International Business



M H R 300 Organizational Behavior

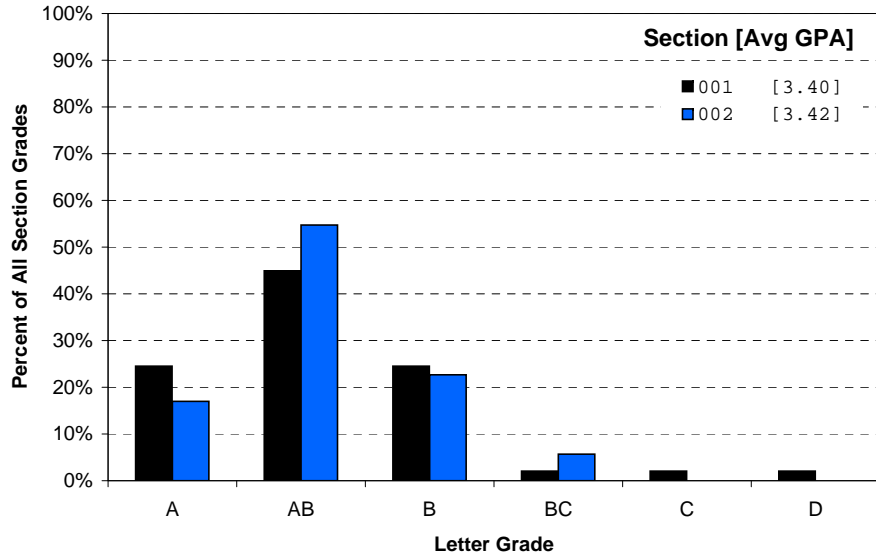


MARKETNG 300 Marketing Management

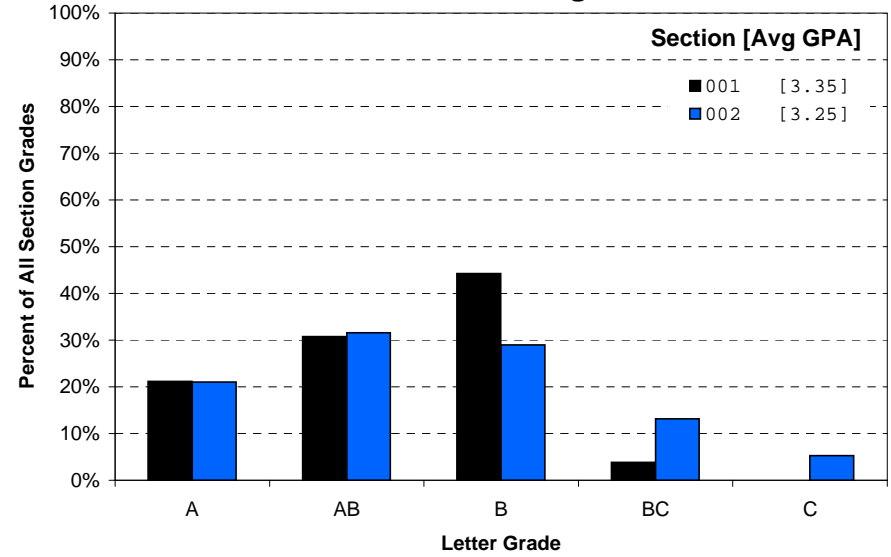


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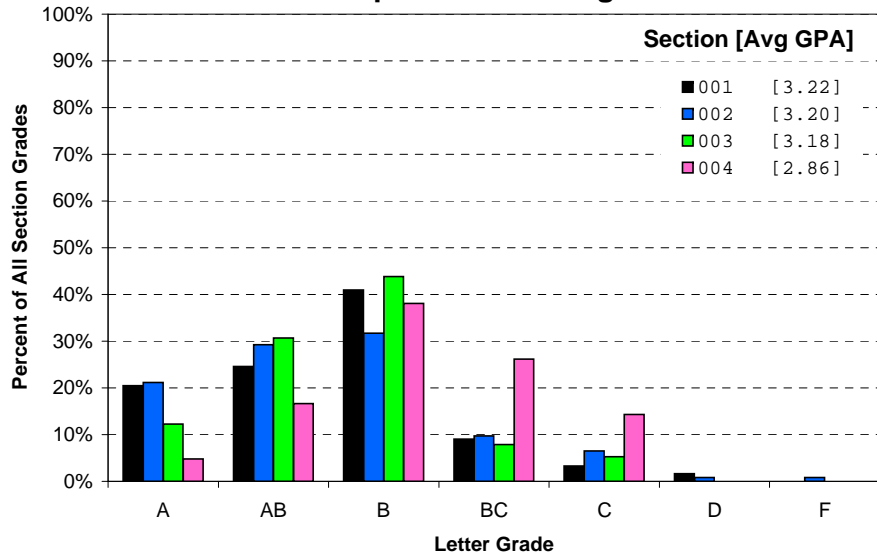
MARKETNG 305 Consumer Behavior



MARKETNG 310 Marketing Research

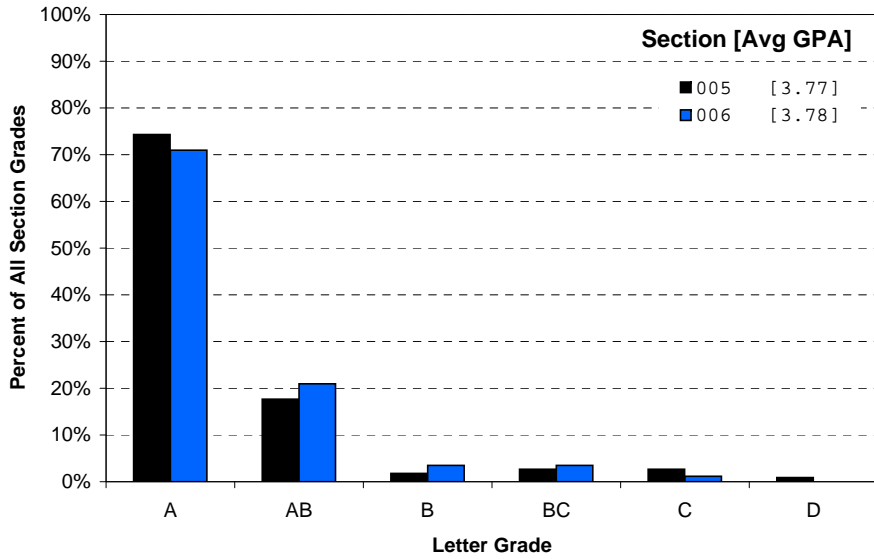


OTM 300 Operations Management

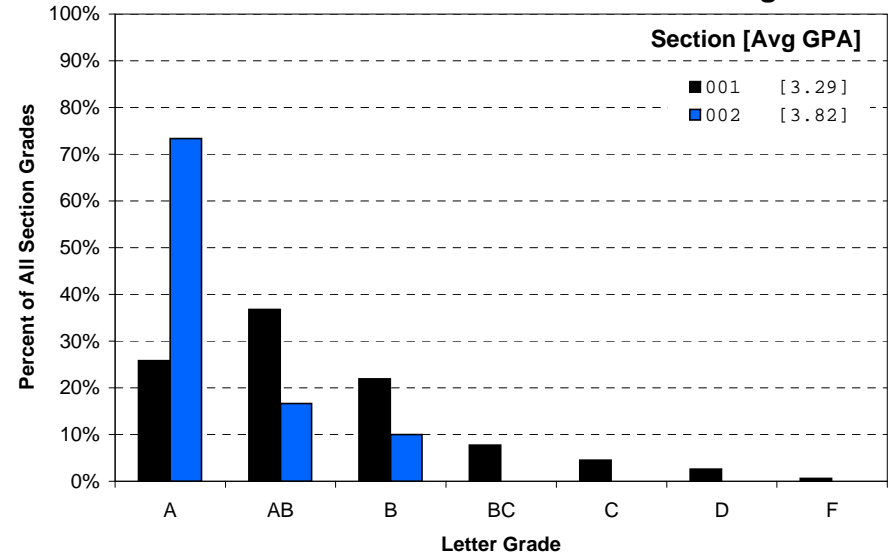


**Distribution of Fall 2009-10 Undergraduate Letter Grades in
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School of Education**

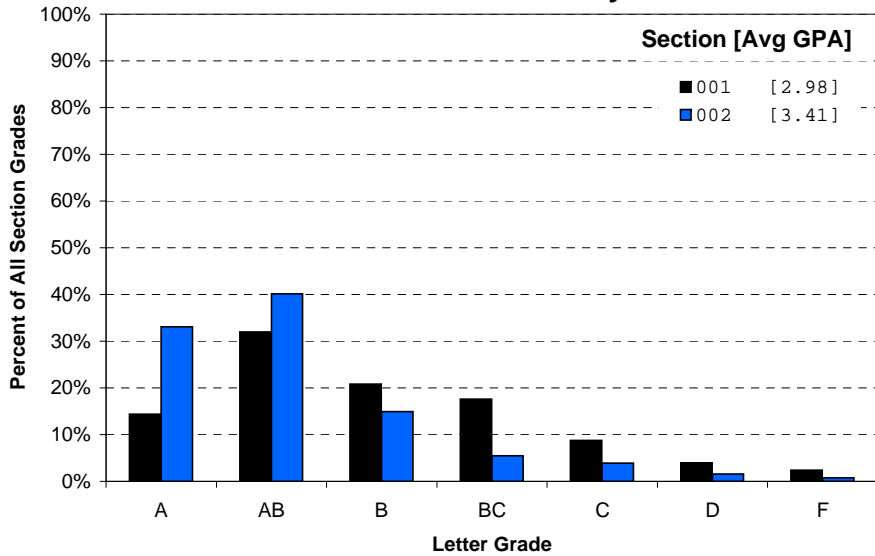
COUN PSY 115 Human Dev: Ed Effectiveness



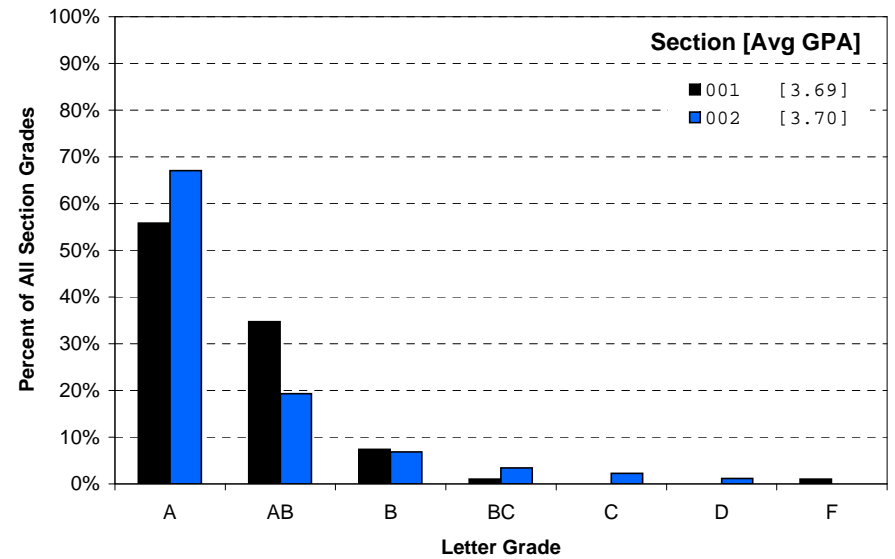
ED PSYCH 301 Human Abilities & Learning



ED PSYCH 320 Human Dev-Infancy&Childhood

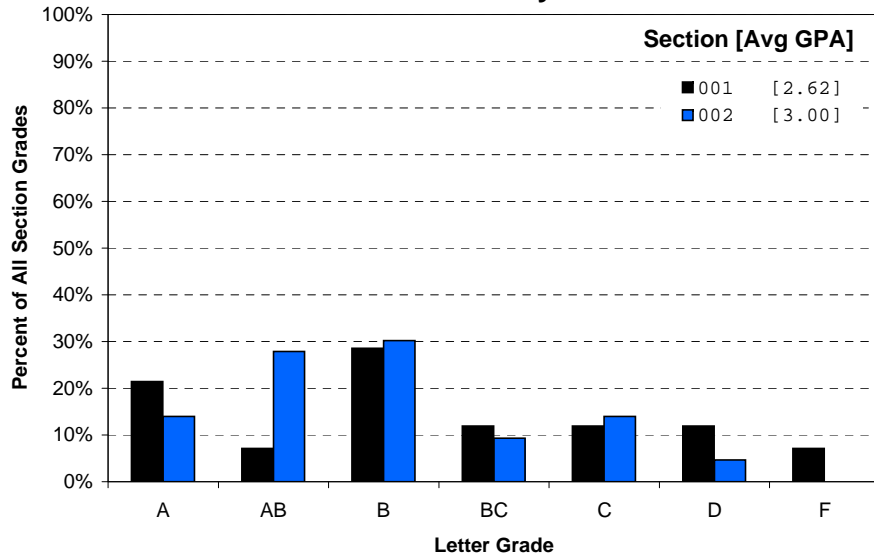


RP & SE 300 Individls with Disabilities

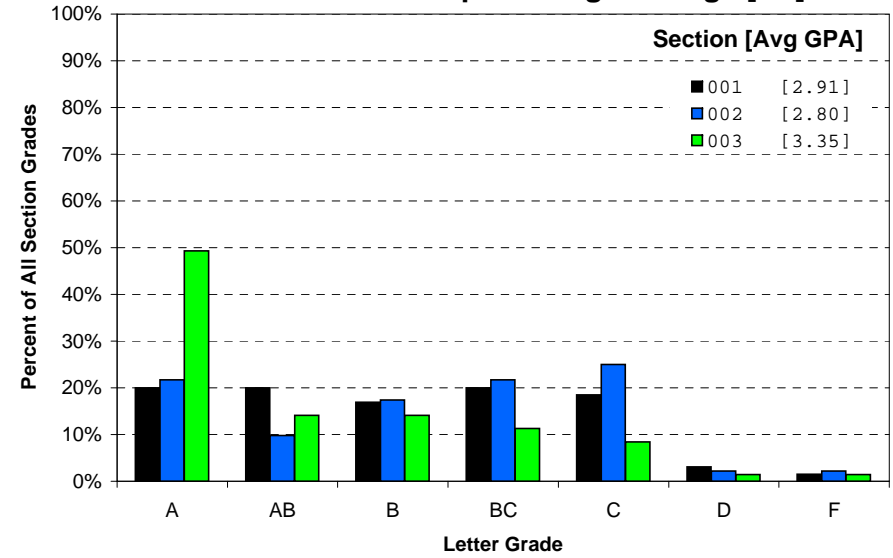


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College of Engineering**

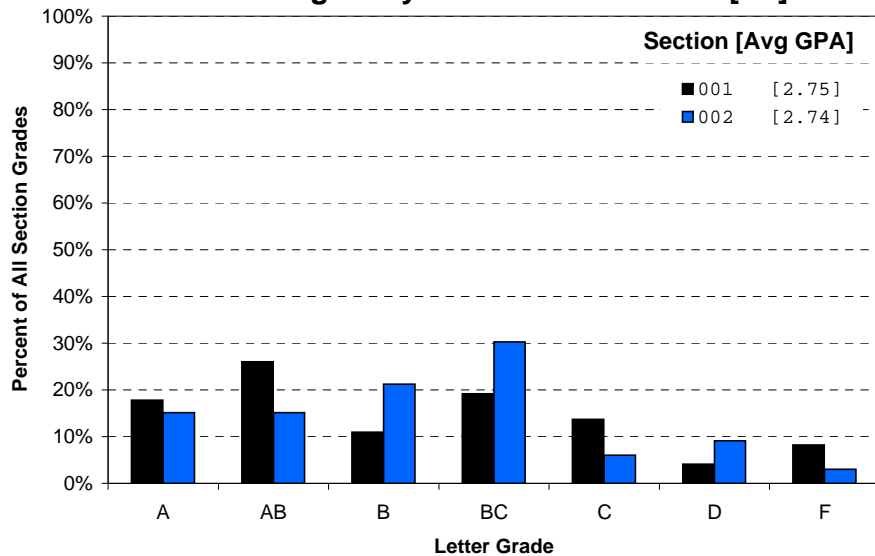
CBE 250 Process Synthesis



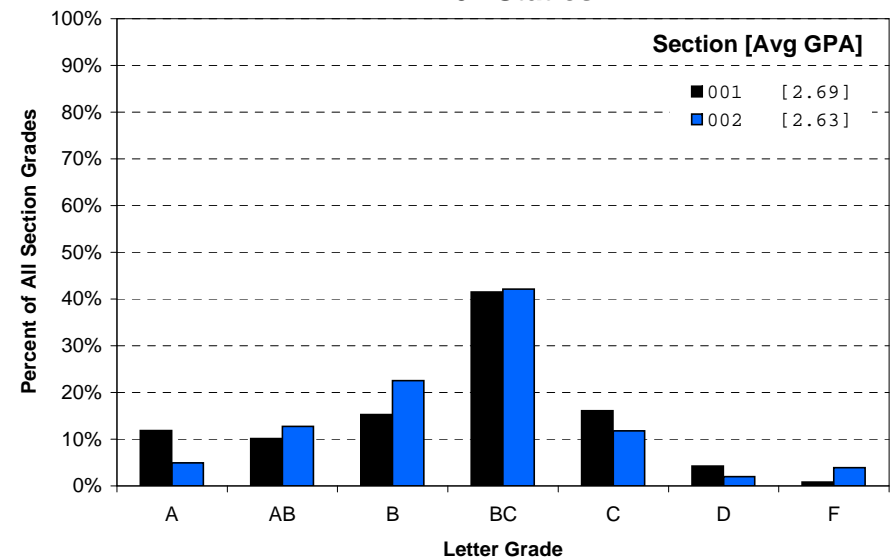
E C E 252 Intro to Computer Engineering [XL]



E C E 352 Digital System Fundamentals [XL]

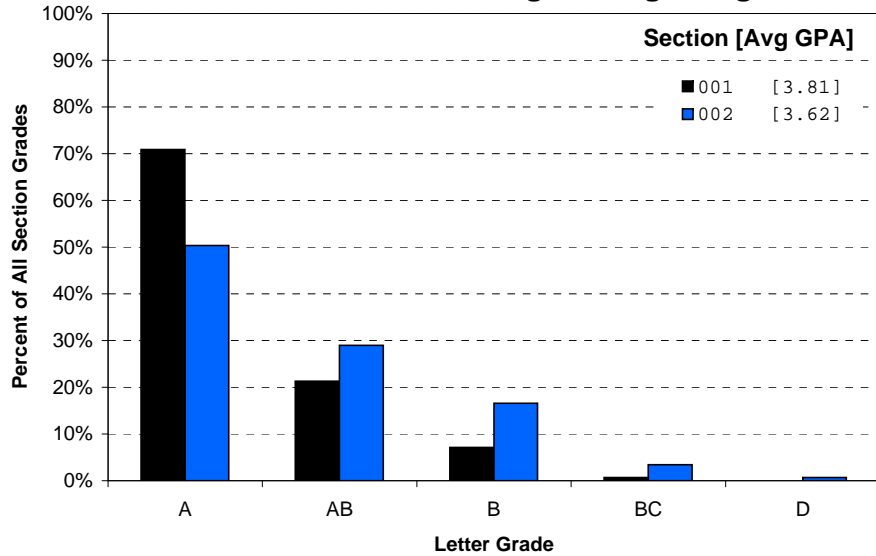


E M A 201 Statics

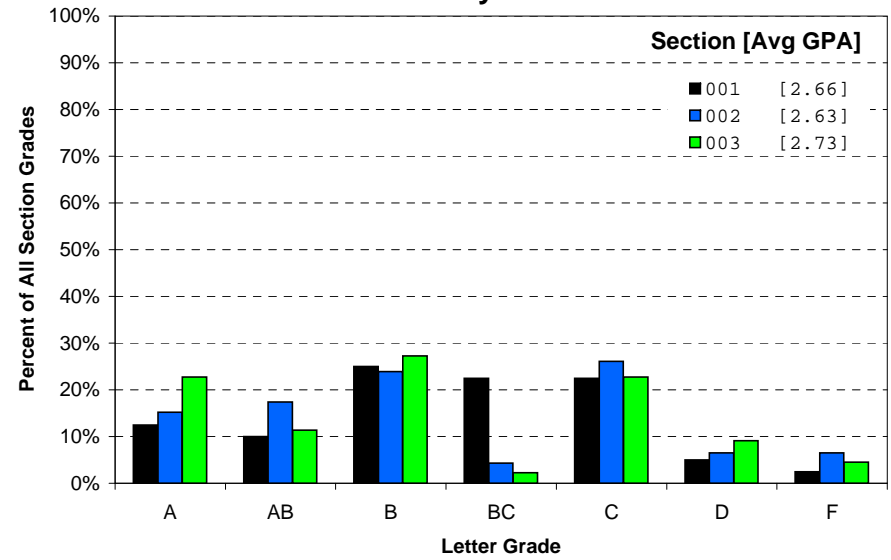


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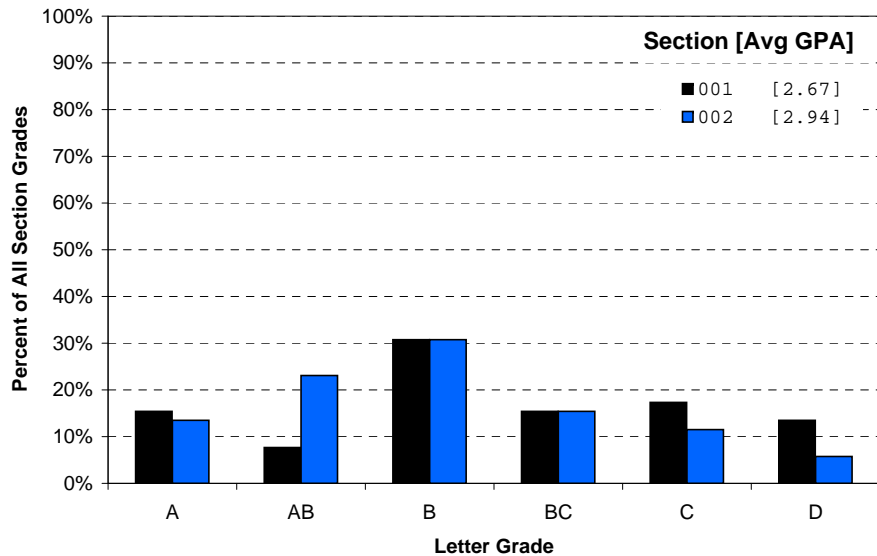
INTEREGR 160 Intro to Engineering Design



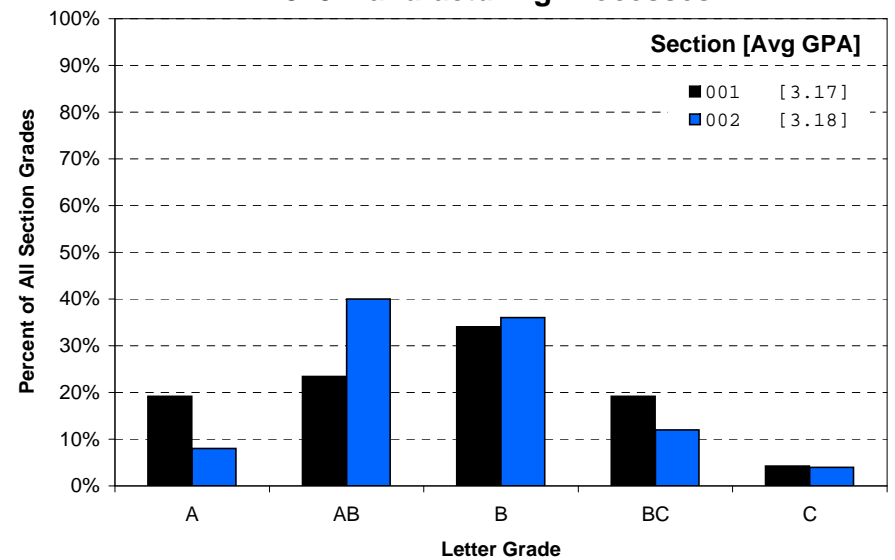
M E 240 Dynamics



M E 306 Mechanics of Materials

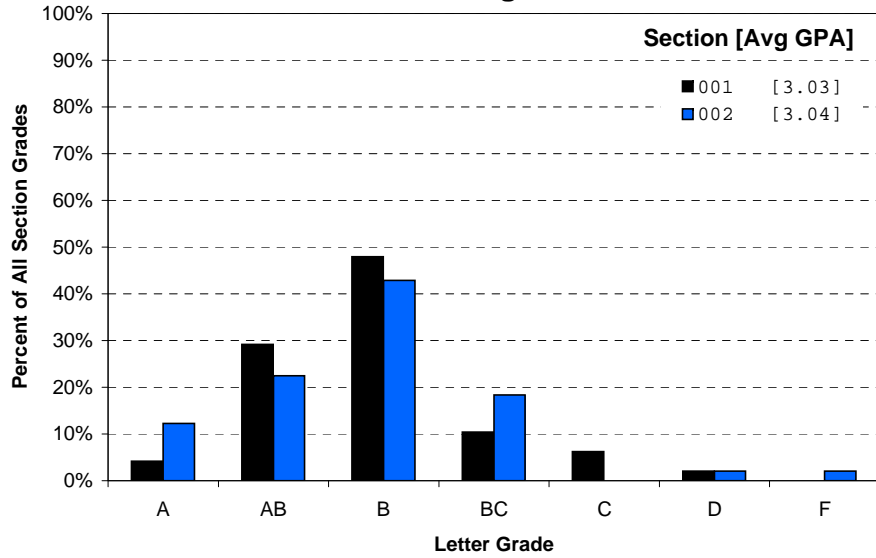


M E 313 Manufacturing Processes

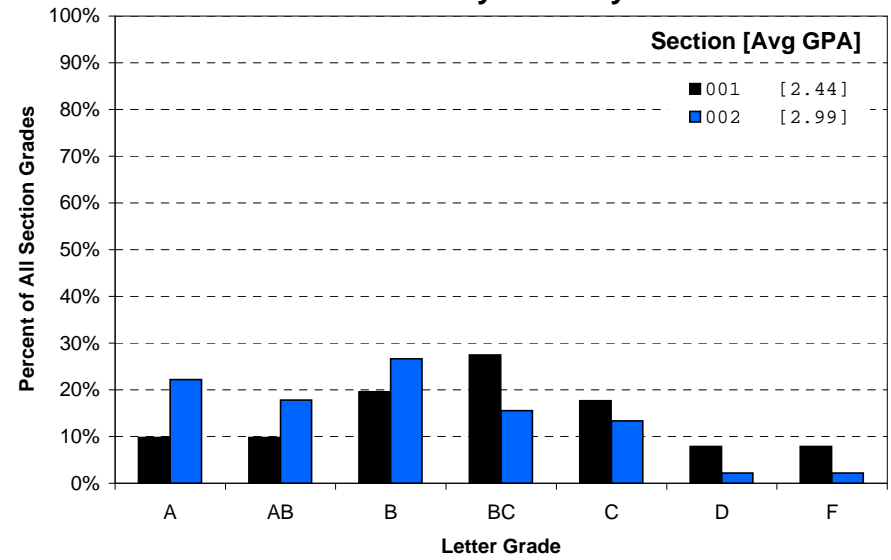


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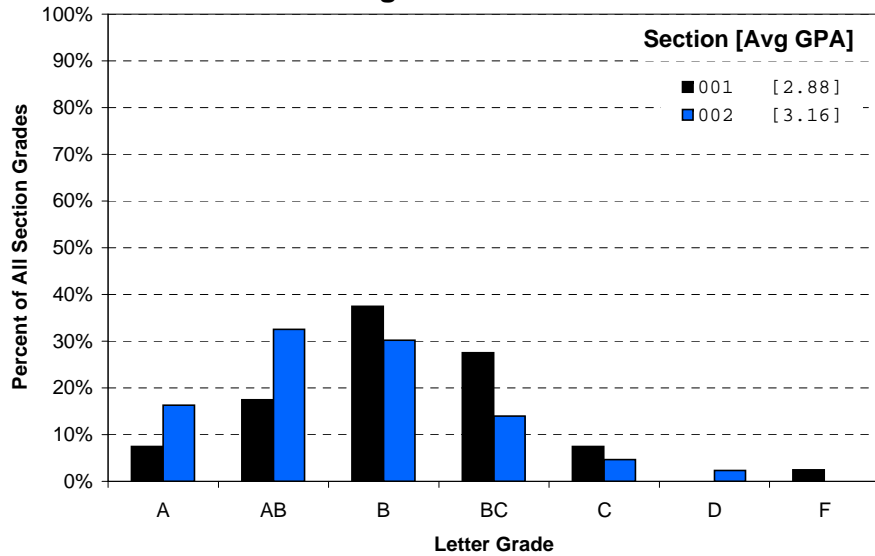
M E 314 Manufacturing Fundamentals



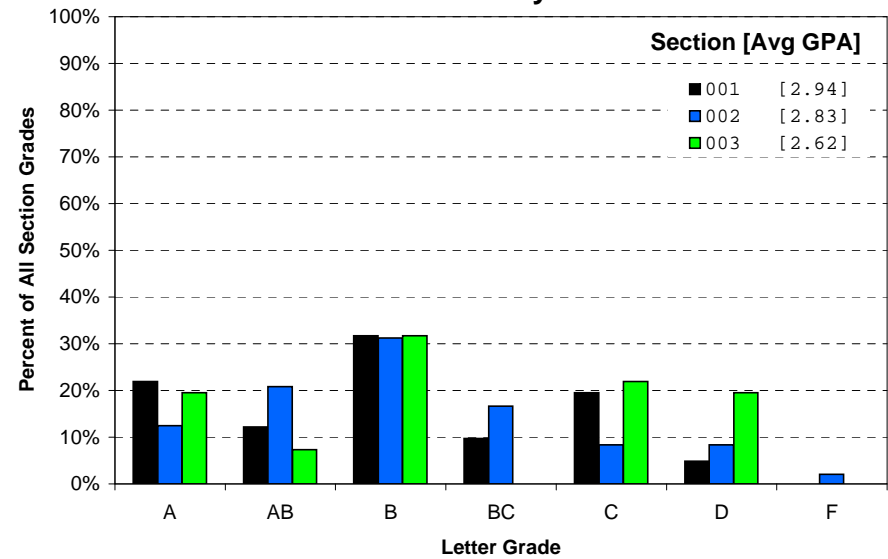
M E 340 Intro to Dynamic Systems



M E 342 Design of Machine Elements

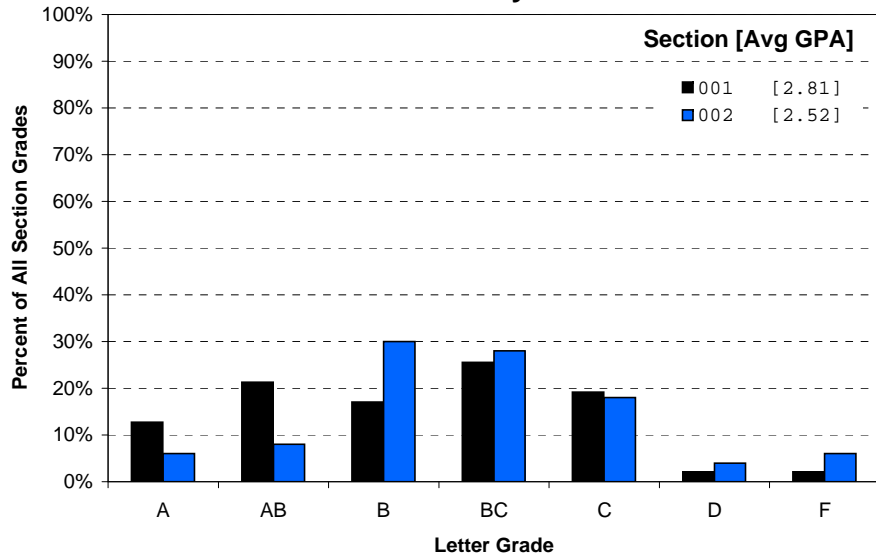


M E 361 Thermodynamics

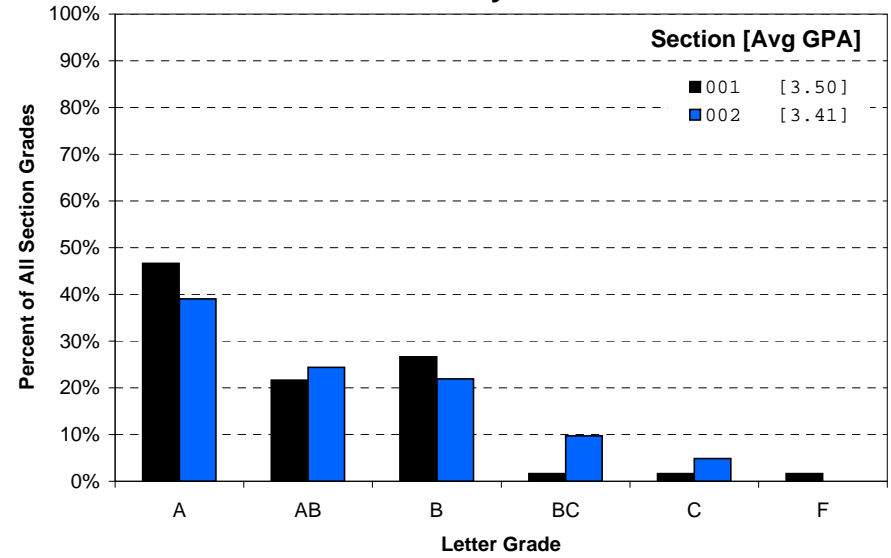


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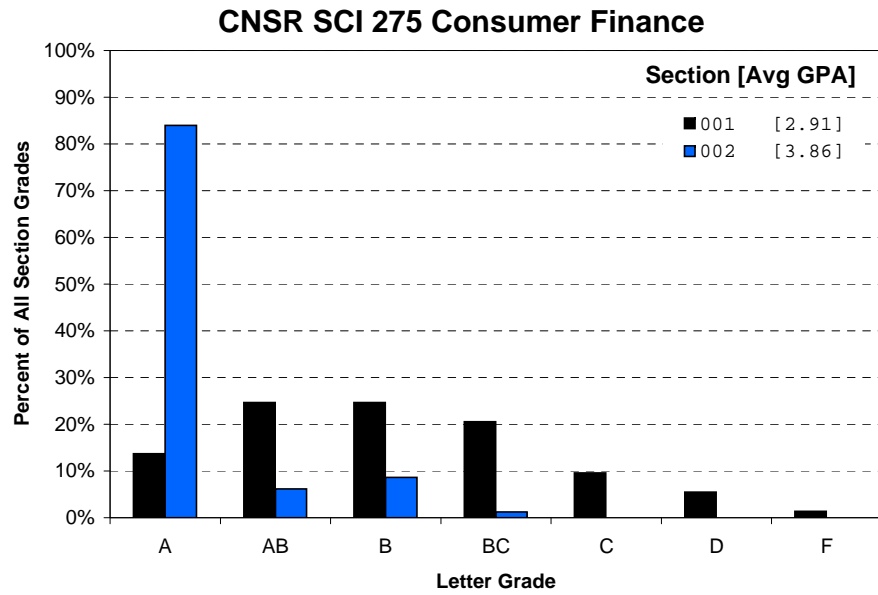
M E 363 Fluid Dynamics



M E 364 Elementary Heat Transfer

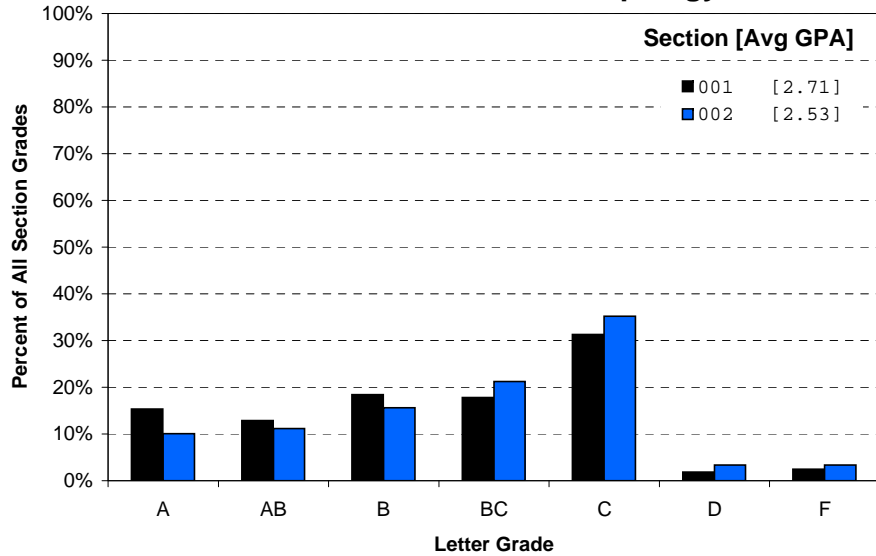


**Distribution of Fall 2009-10 Undergraduate Letter Grades in
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School of Human Ecology**

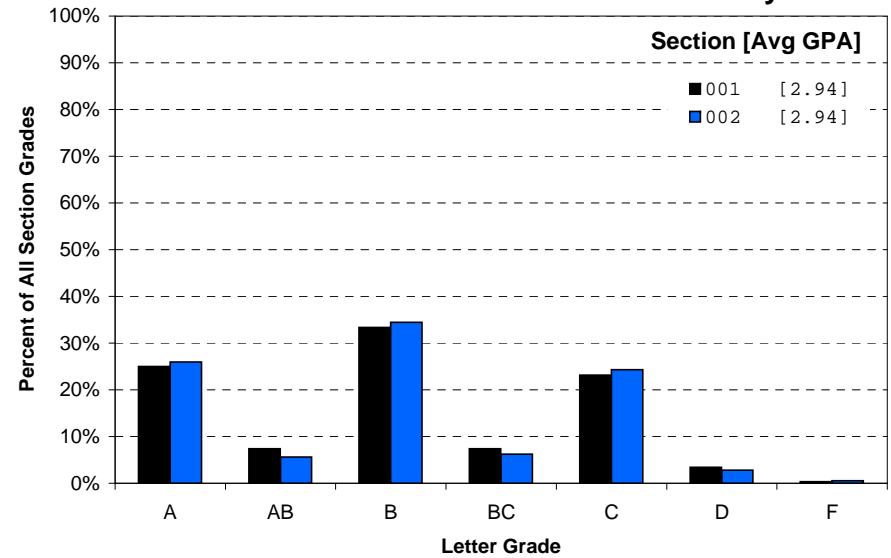


**Distribution of Fall 2009-10 Undergraduate Letter Grades in
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College of Letters and Science**

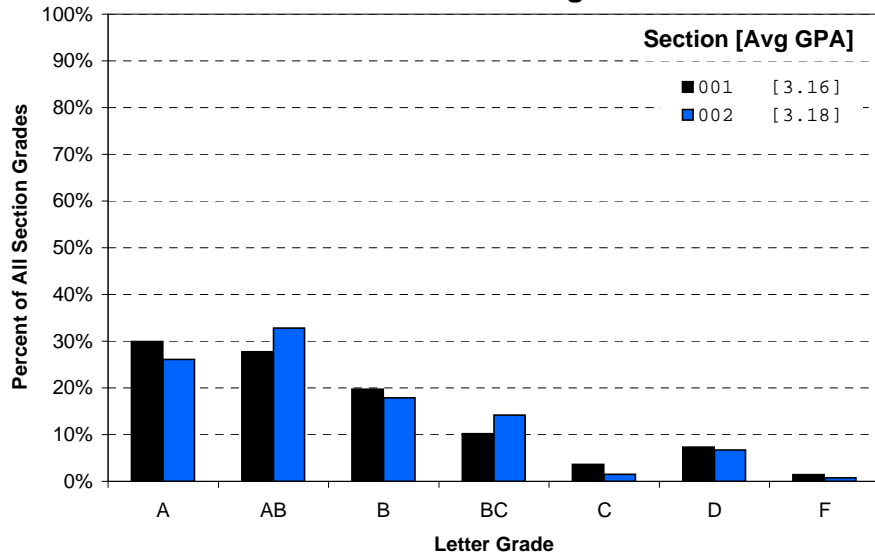
ANTHRO 100 General Anthropology



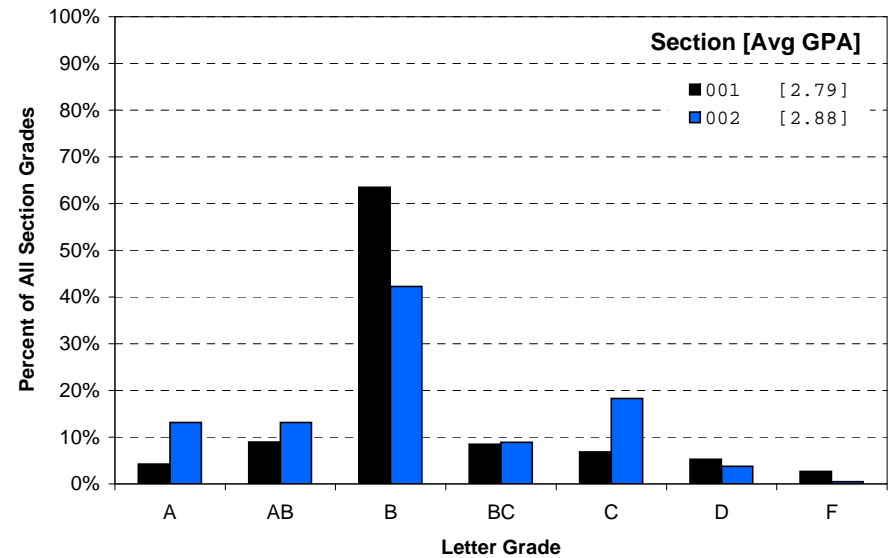
ANTHRO 104 Cult Anthro&Human Diversity



ASTRON 103 The Evolving Universe

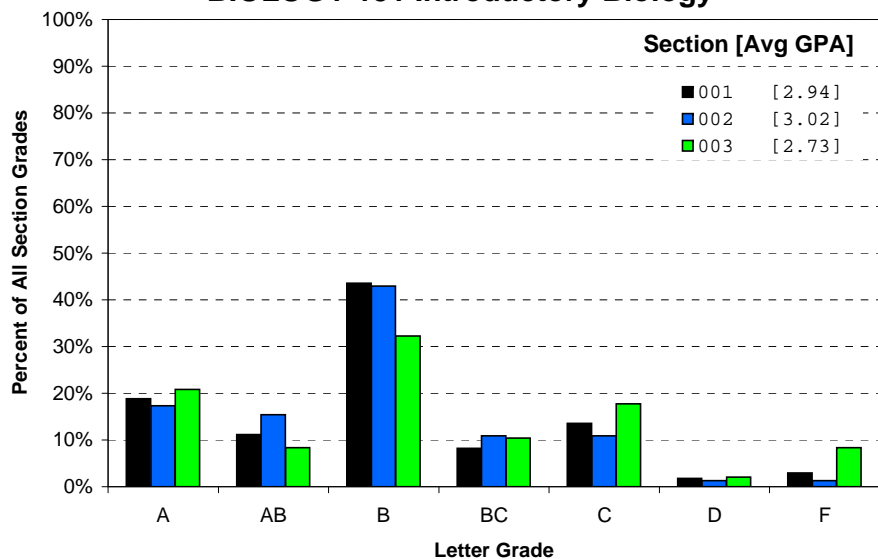


ATM OCN 100 Weather and Climate

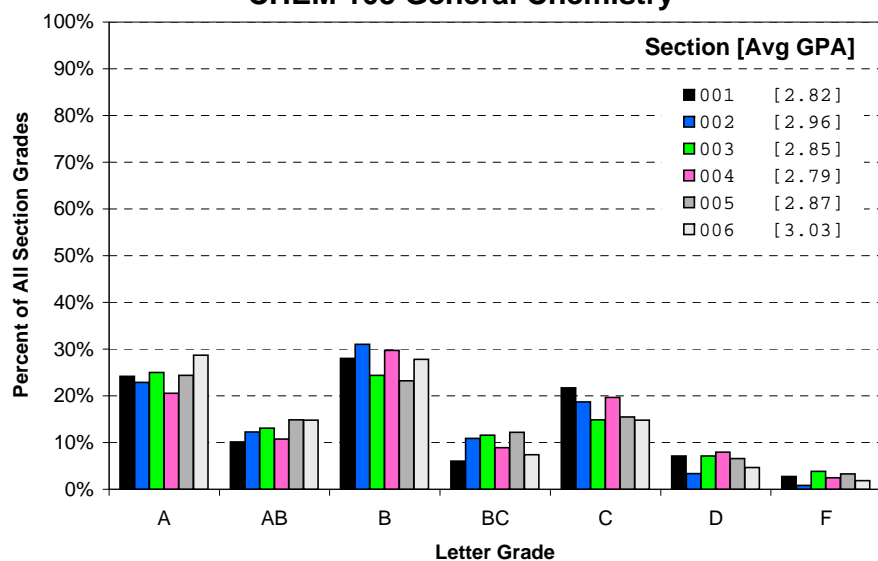


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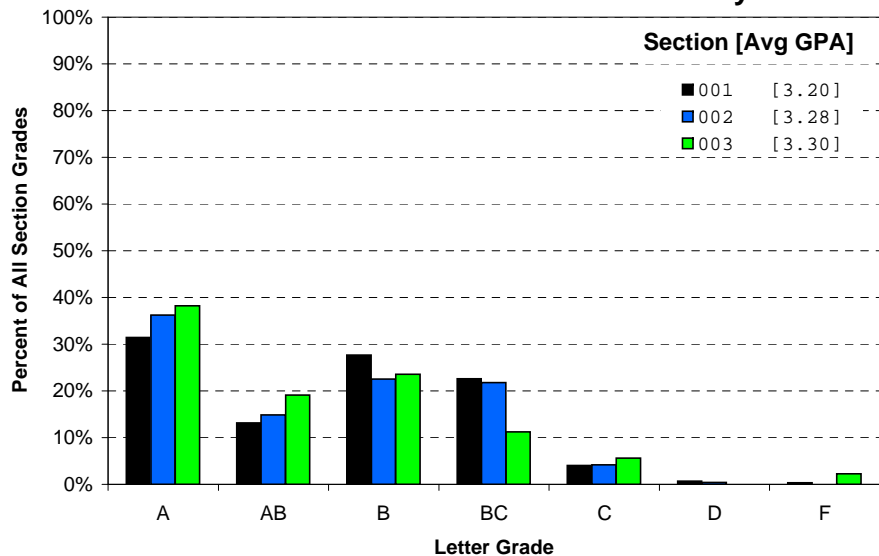
BIOLOGY 151 Introductory Biology



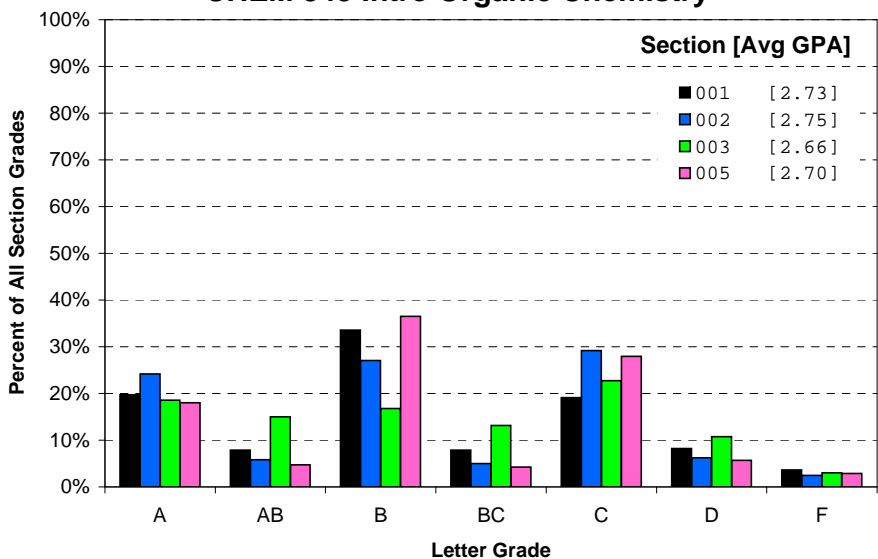
CHEM 103 General Chemistry



CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry

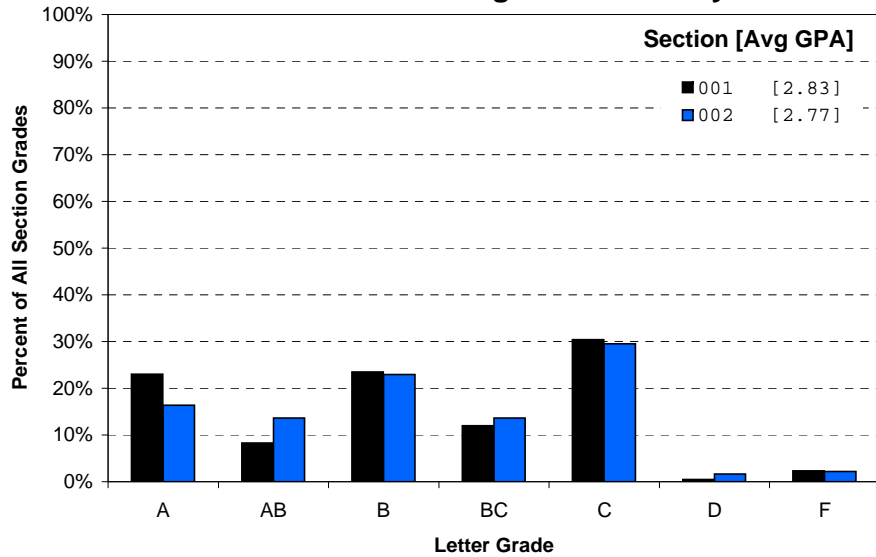


CHEM 343 Intro Organic Chemistry

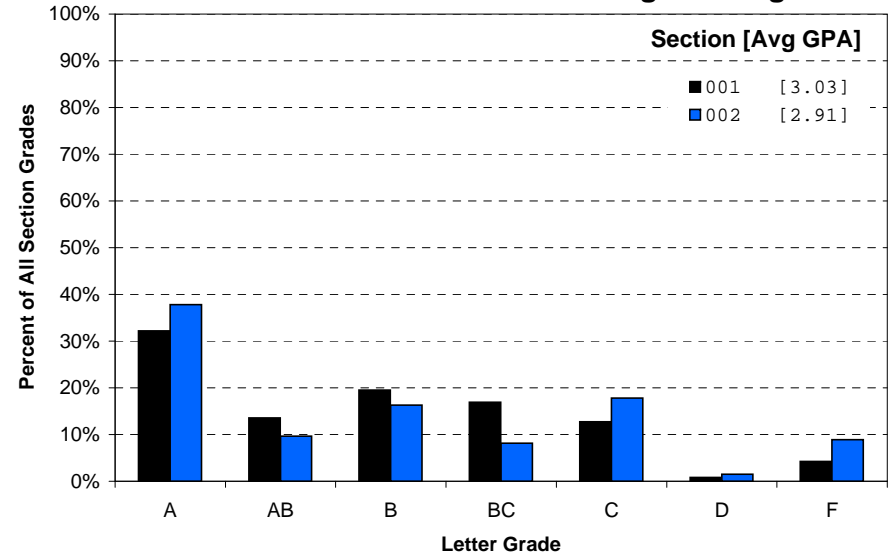


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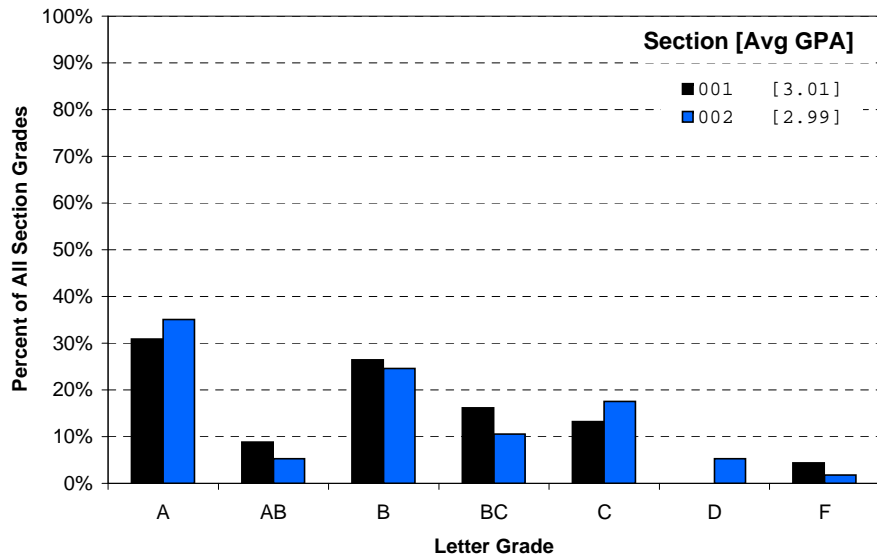
CHEM 345 Intmed Organic Chemistry



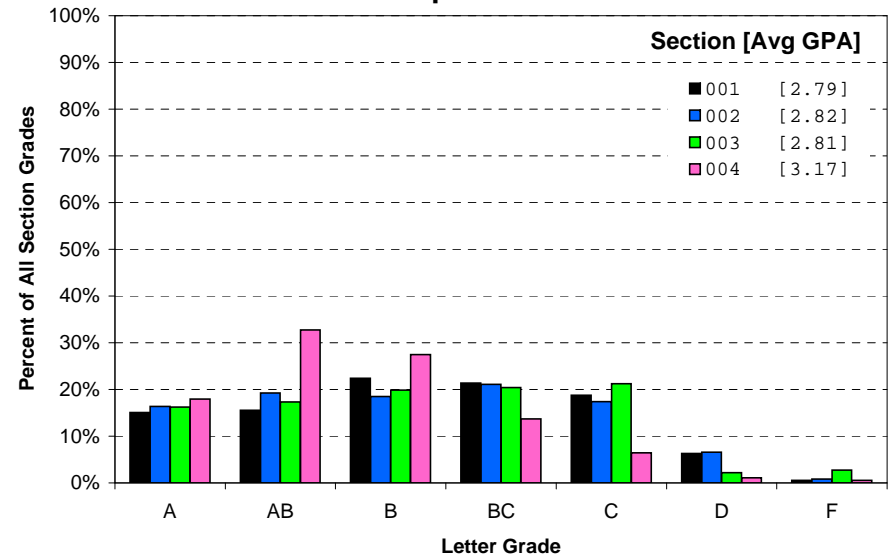
COMP SCI 302 Introduction to Programming



COMP SCI 367 Intro to Data Structures

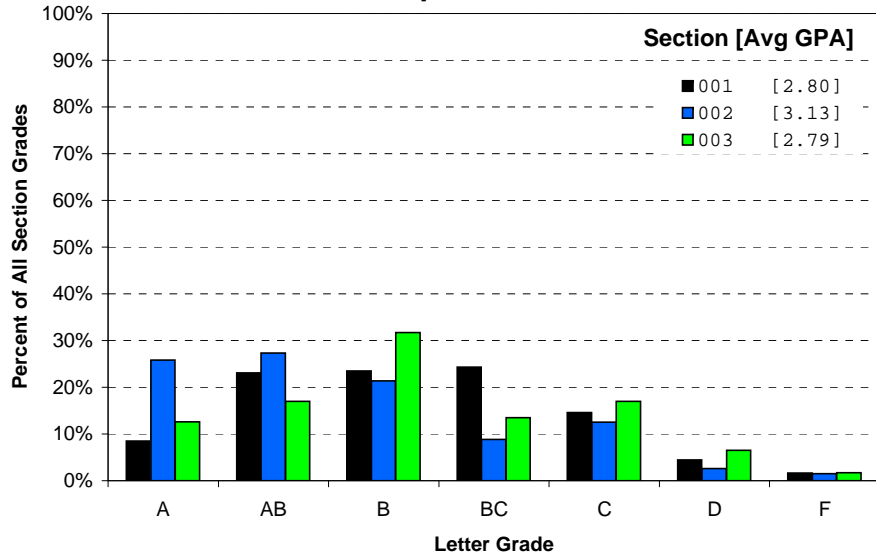


ECON 101 Principles-Microeconomics

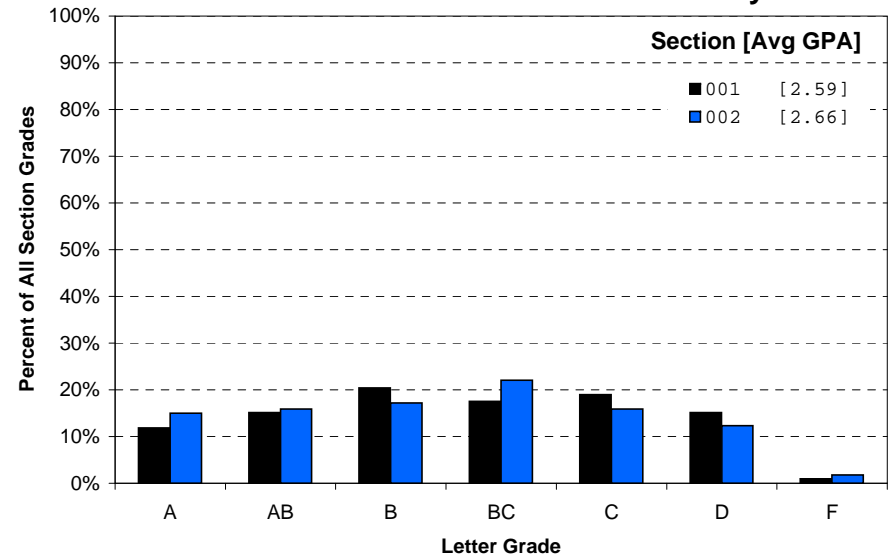


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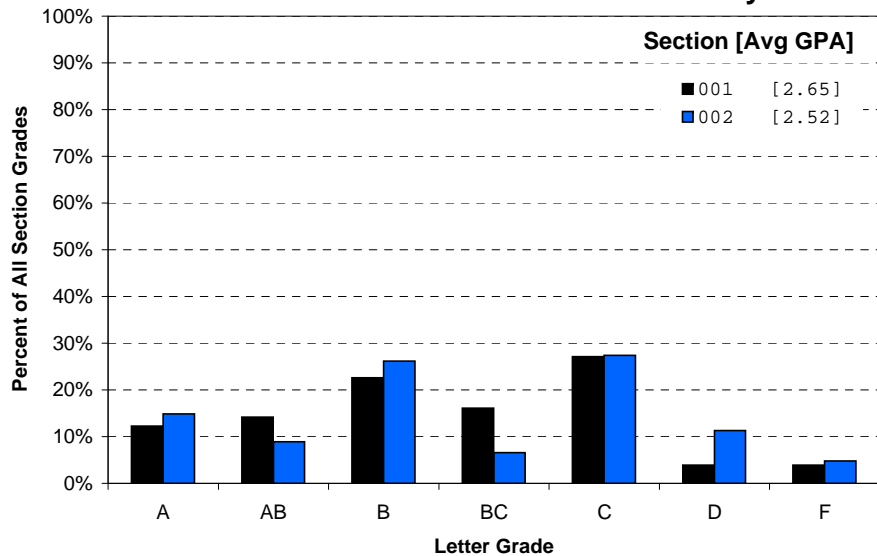
ECON 102 Principles-Macroeconomics



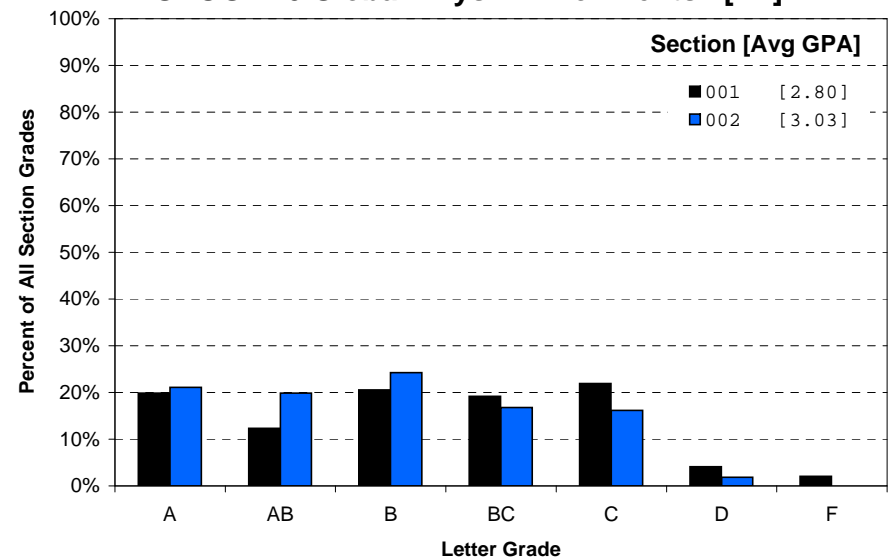
ECON 301 Intmed Microeconomic Theory



ECON 302 Intmed Macroeconomic Theory

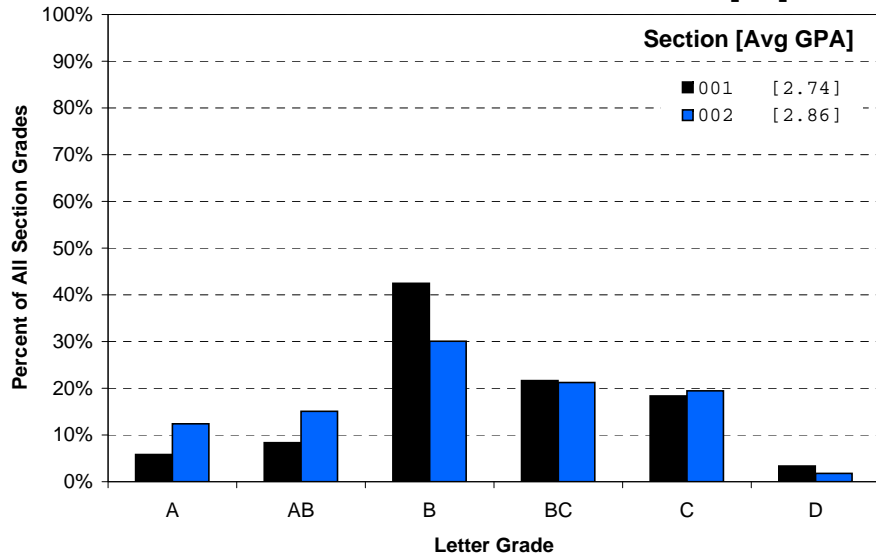


GEOG 120 Global Phys Environments [XL]

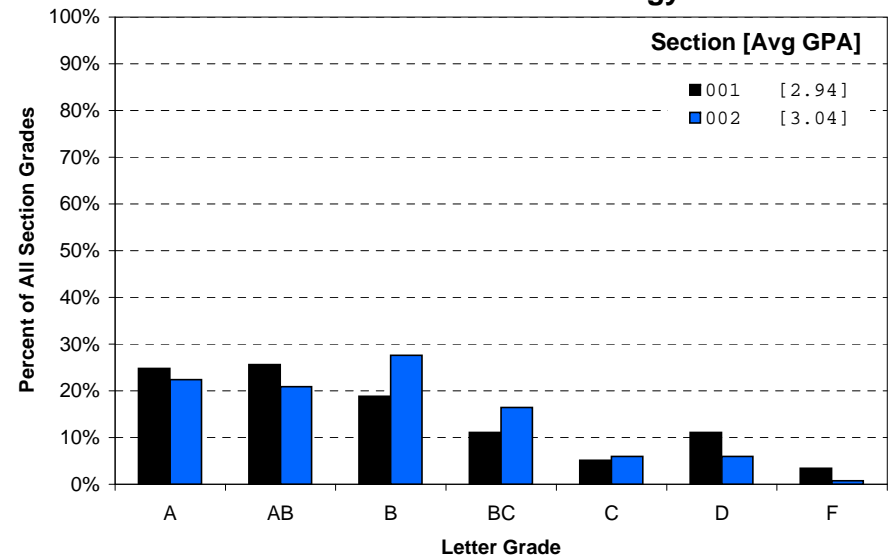


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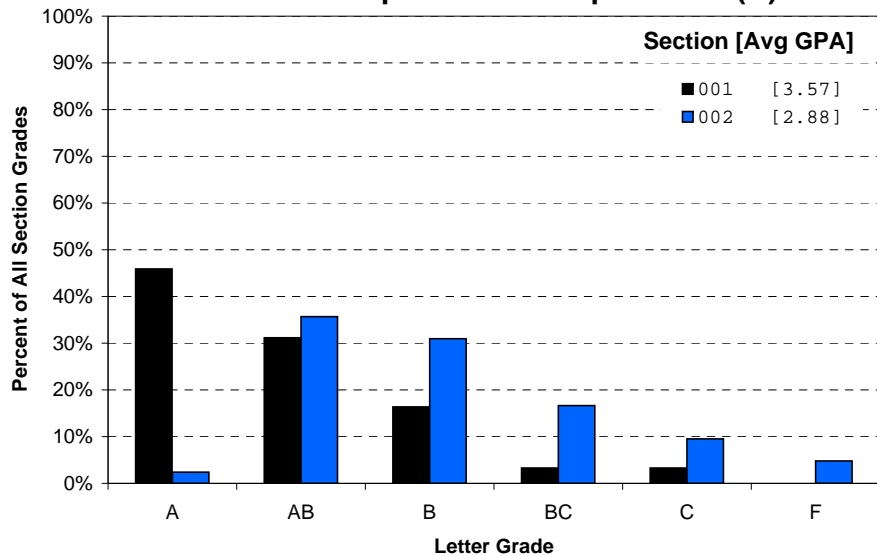
GEOG 339 Environmental Conservation [XL]



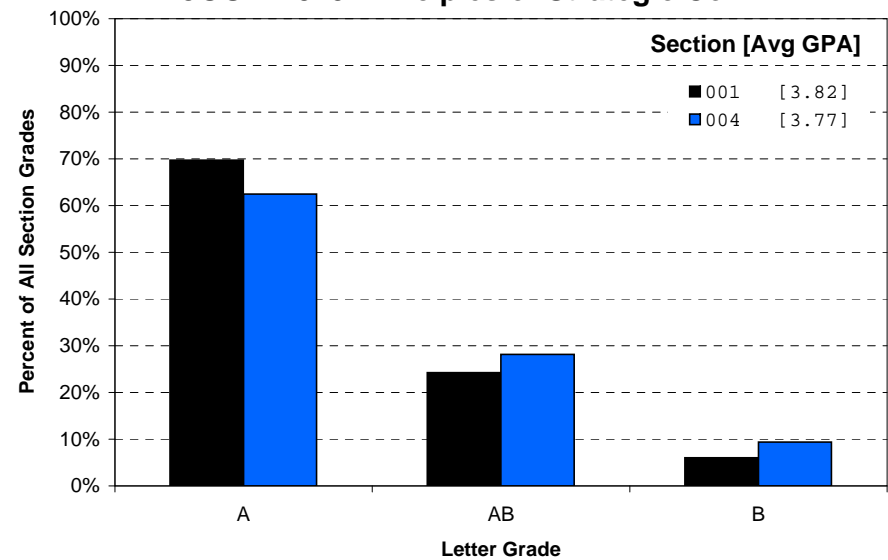
GEOSCI 100 General Geology



HISTORY 223 Exploration-European Hist (H)

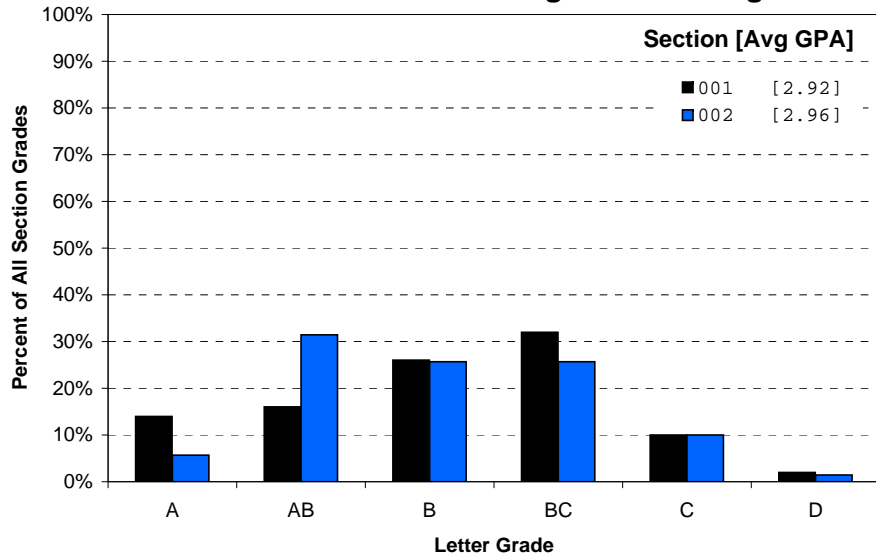


JOURN 345 Principles of Strategic Com

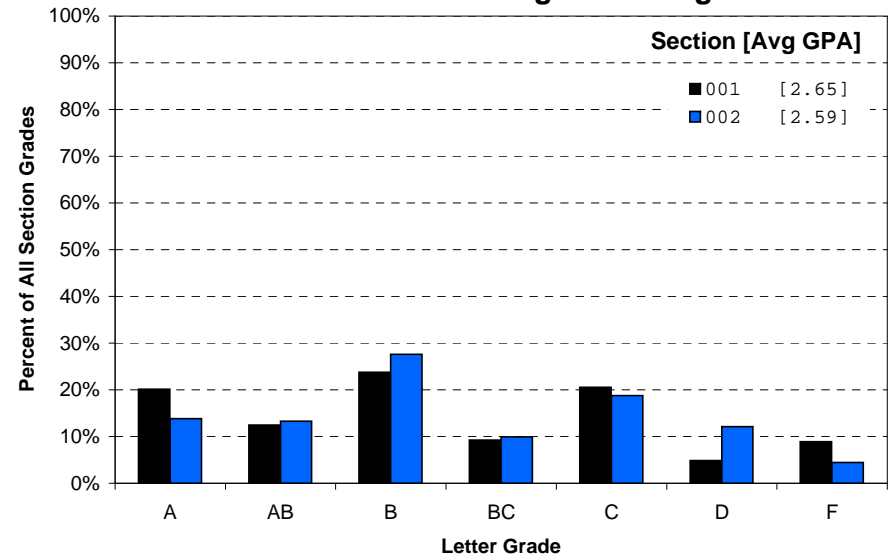


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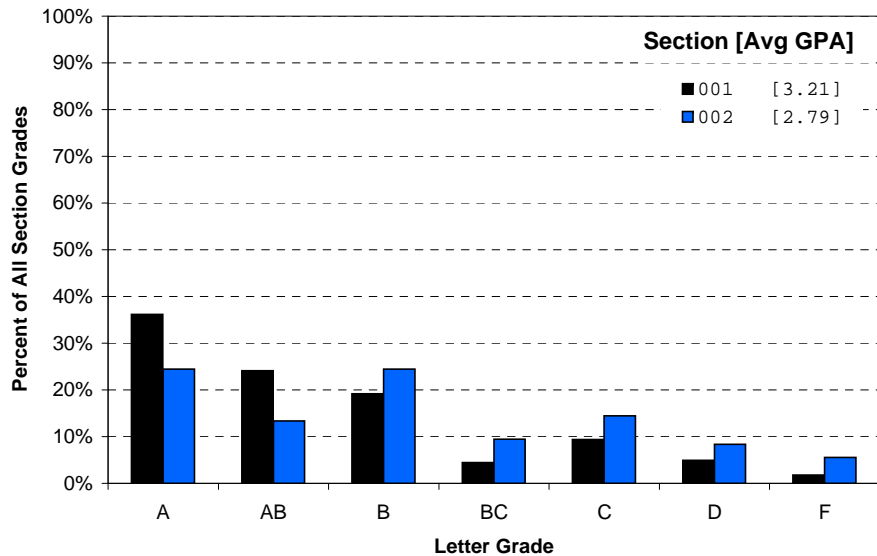
MATH 141 Quant Reasoning&Prob Solvng



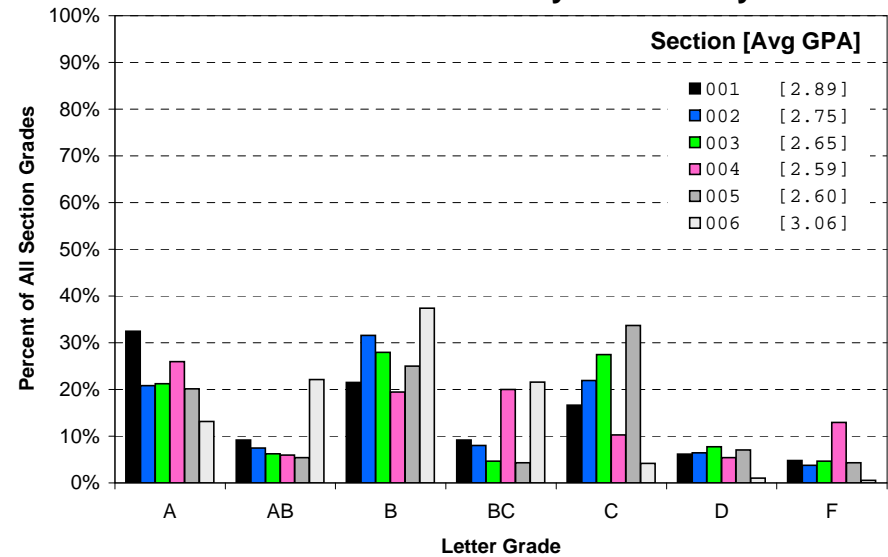
MATH 171 Calc with Algebra & Trig I



MATH 211 Calculus

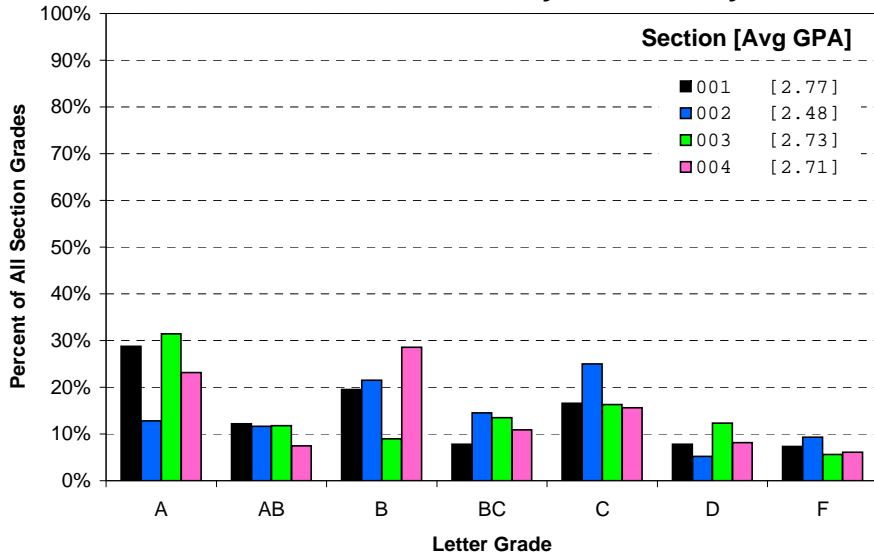


MATH 221 Calculus&Analytic Geometry

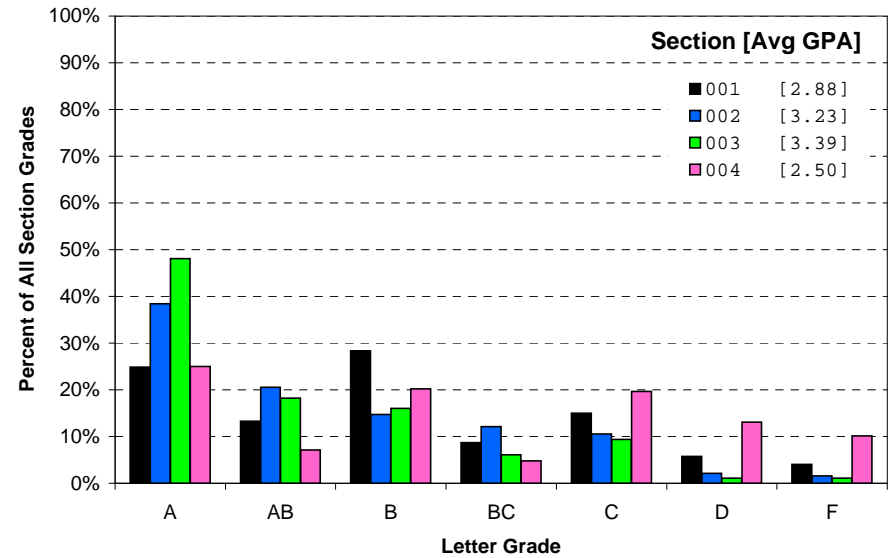


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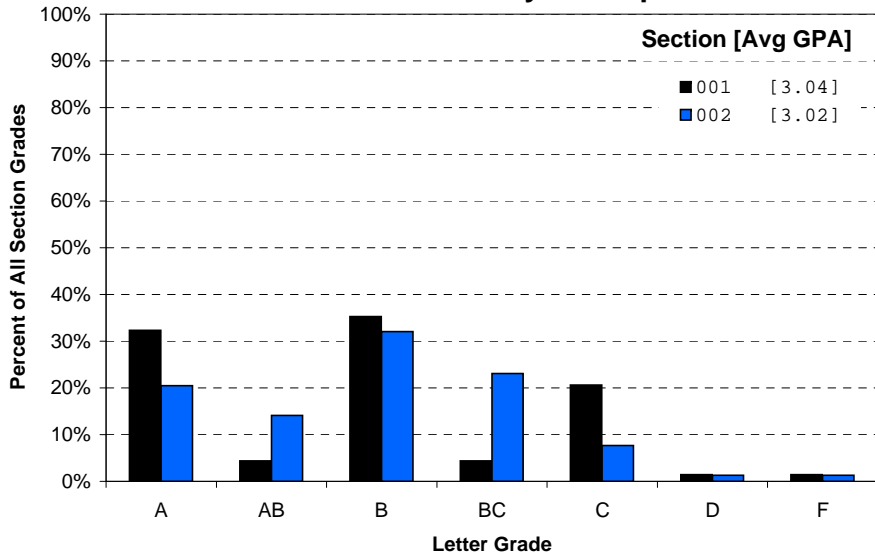
MATH 222 Calculus&Analytic Geometry



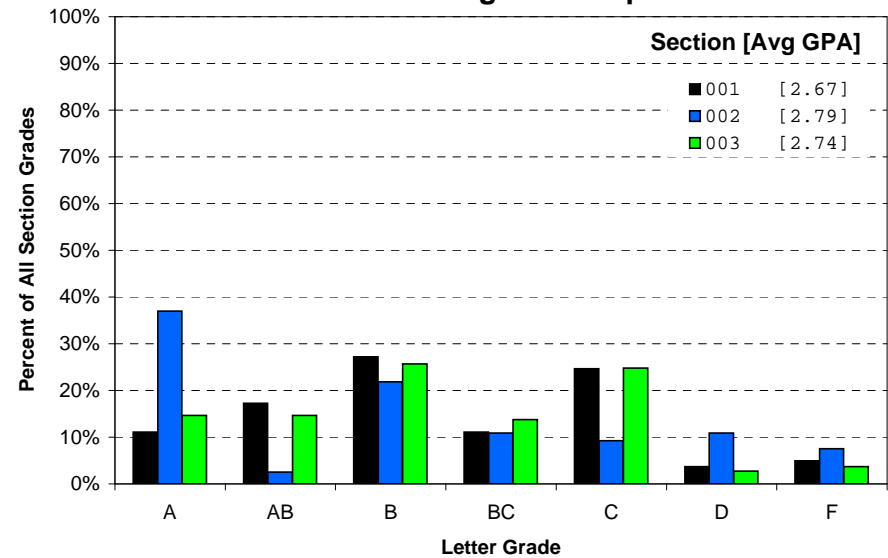
MATH 234 Calc--Functns of Variables



MATH 319 Tech-Ordinary Diff Equation

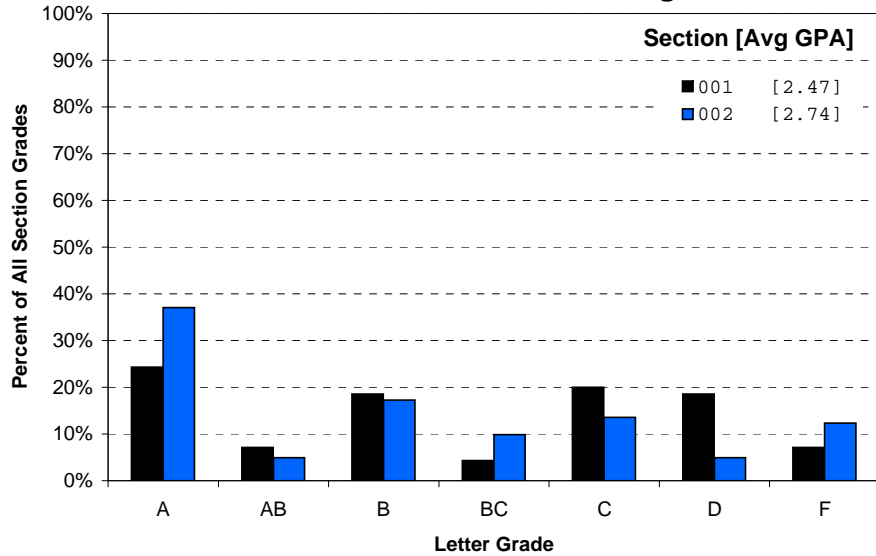


MATH 320 Linear Alg & Diff Equations

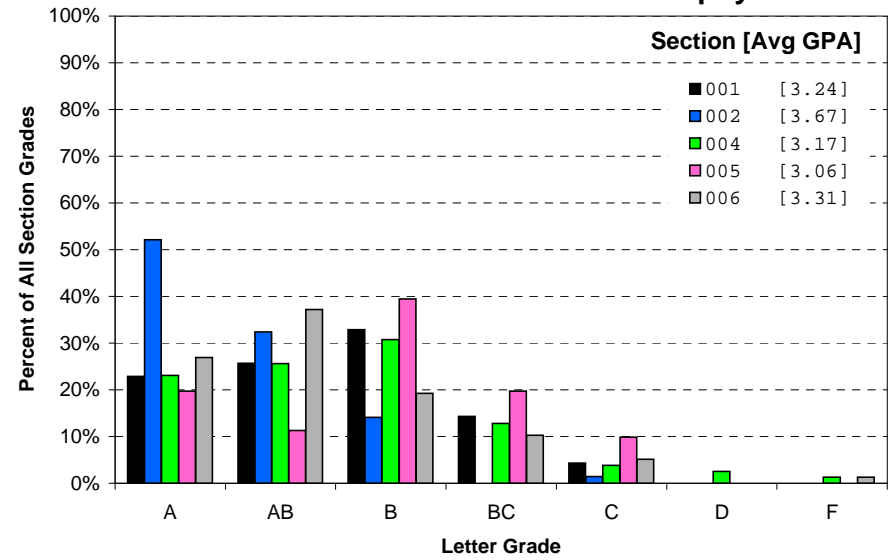


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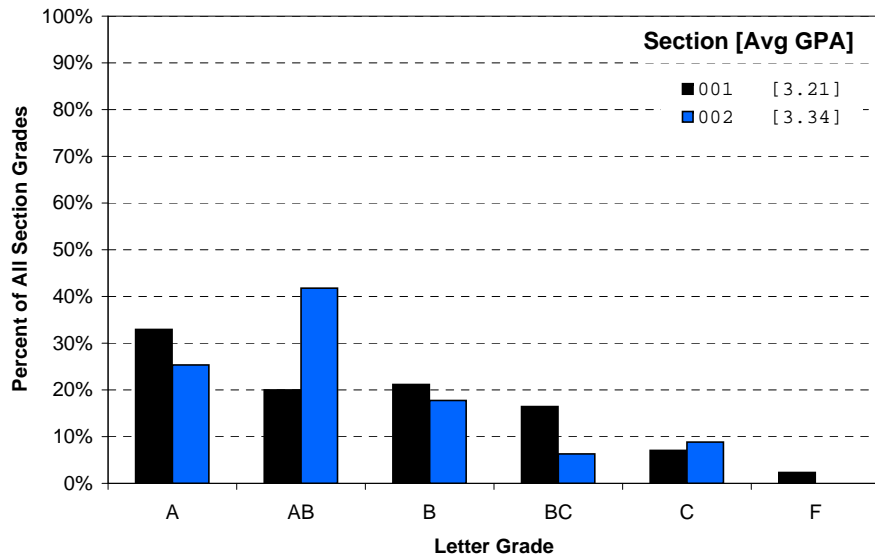
MATH 340 Elem Matrix&Linear Algebra



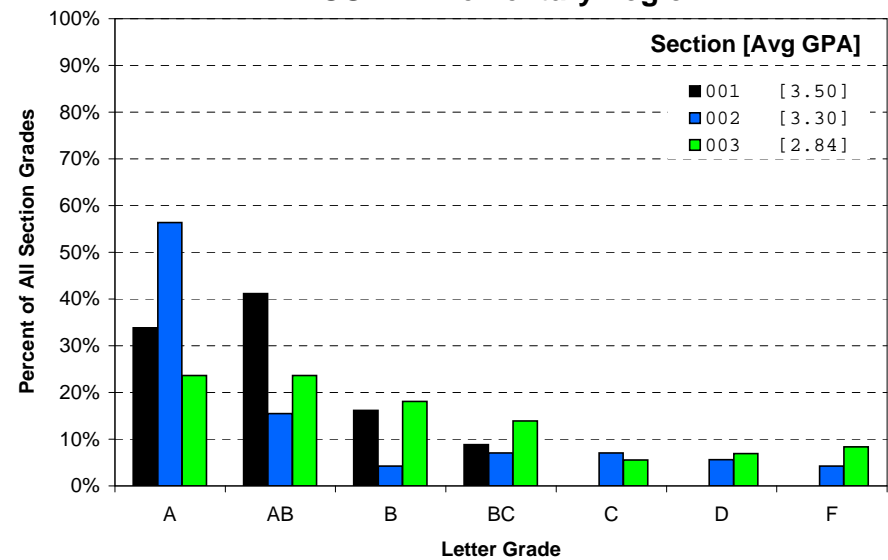
PHILOS 101 Introduction to Philosophy



PHILOS 210 Reason in Communication

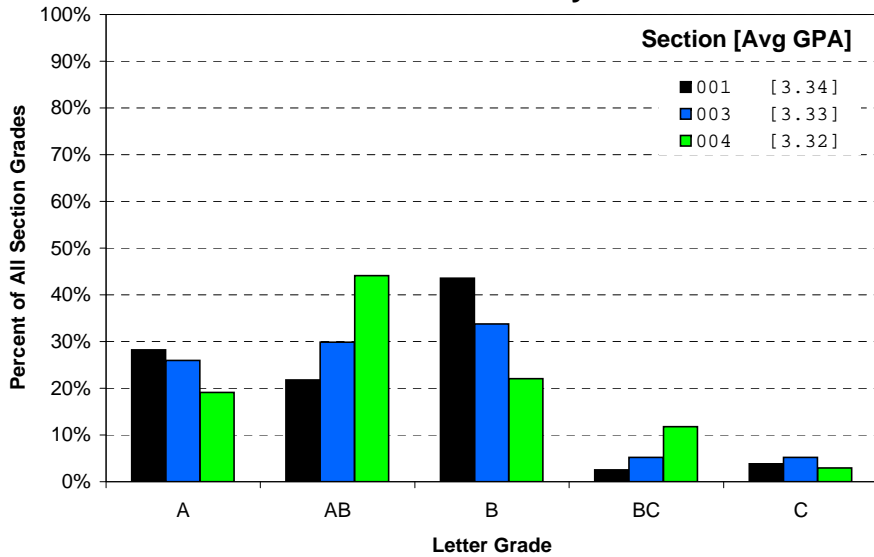


PHILOS 211 Elementary Logic

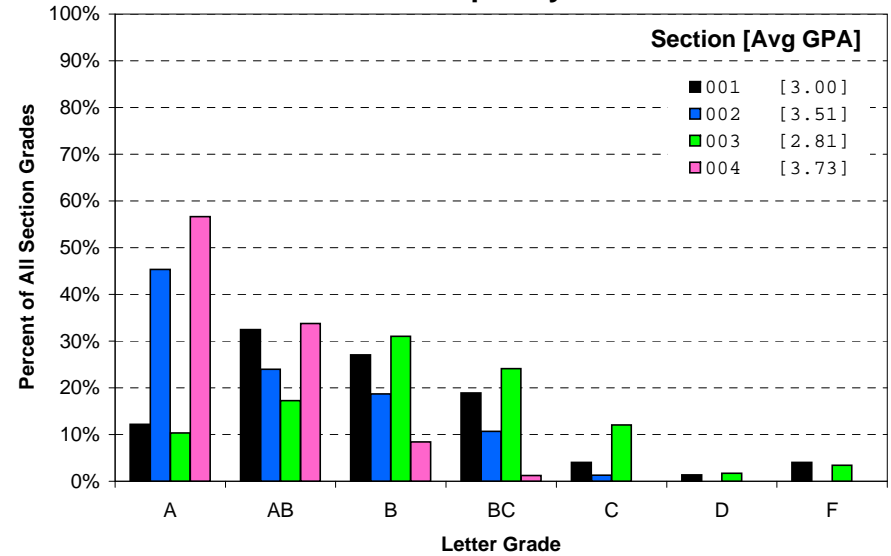


**Distribution of Fall 2009-10 Undergraduate Letter Grades in
Courses Numbered Below 400 Having Multiple Classes of at Least 30 Undergraduates
College of Letters and Science**

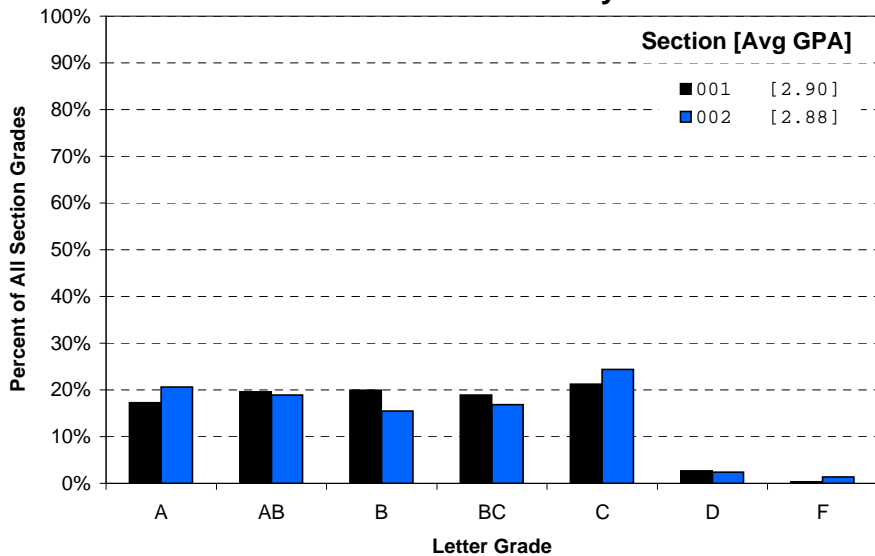
PHILOS 241 Introductory Ethics



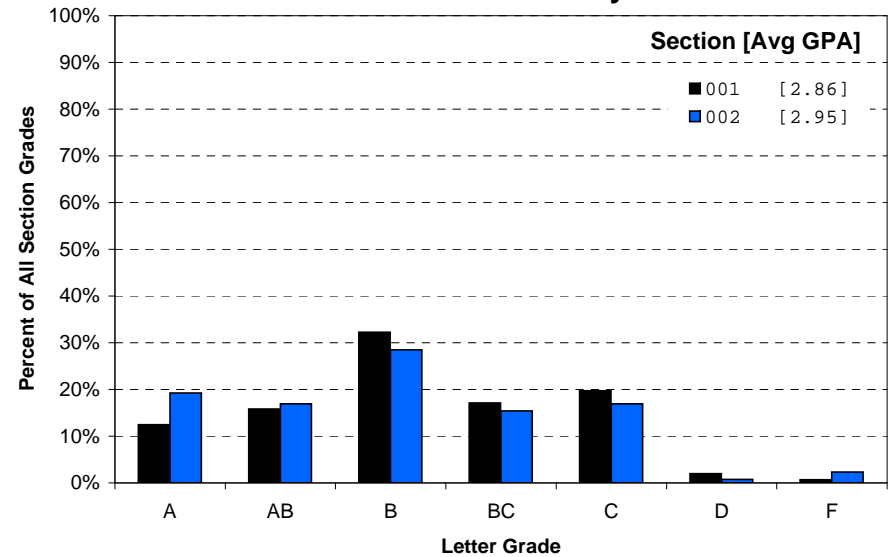
PHILOS 341 Contemporary Moral Issues



PHYSICS 103 General Physics

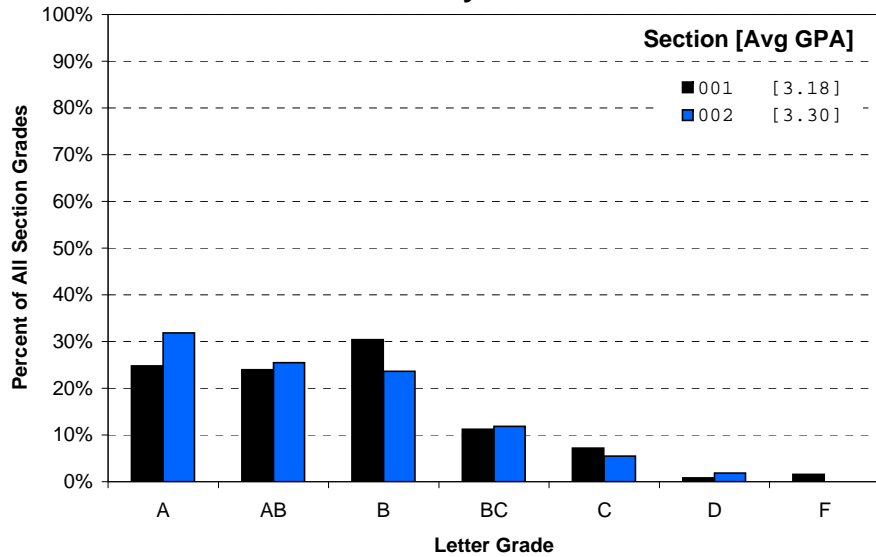


PHYSICS 104 General Physics

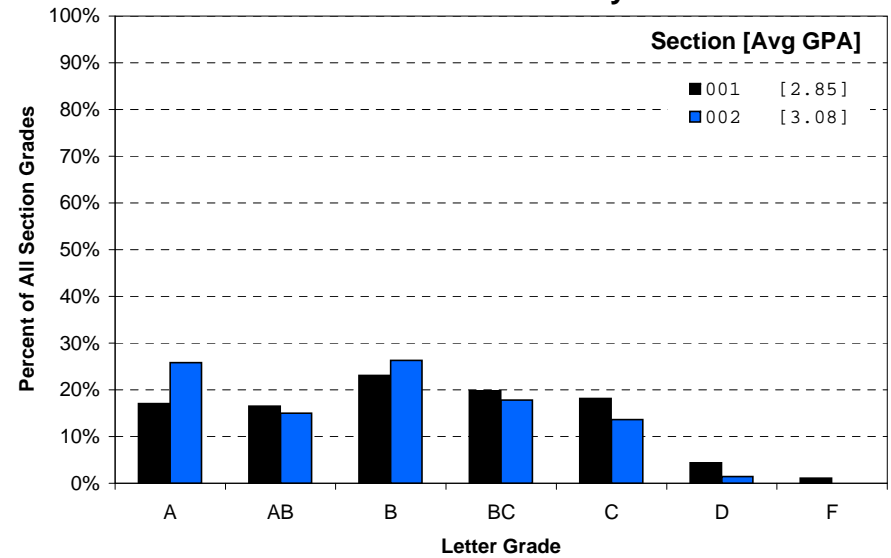


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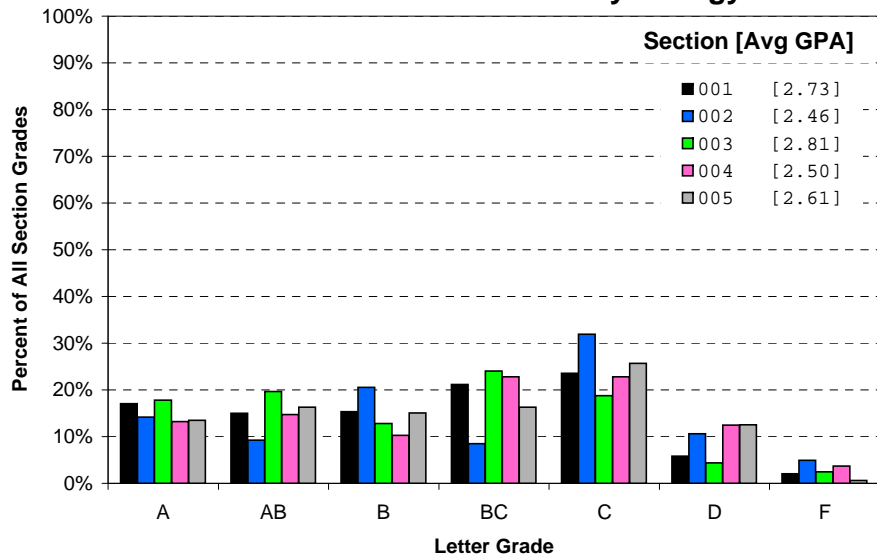
PHYSICS 109 Physics in the Arts



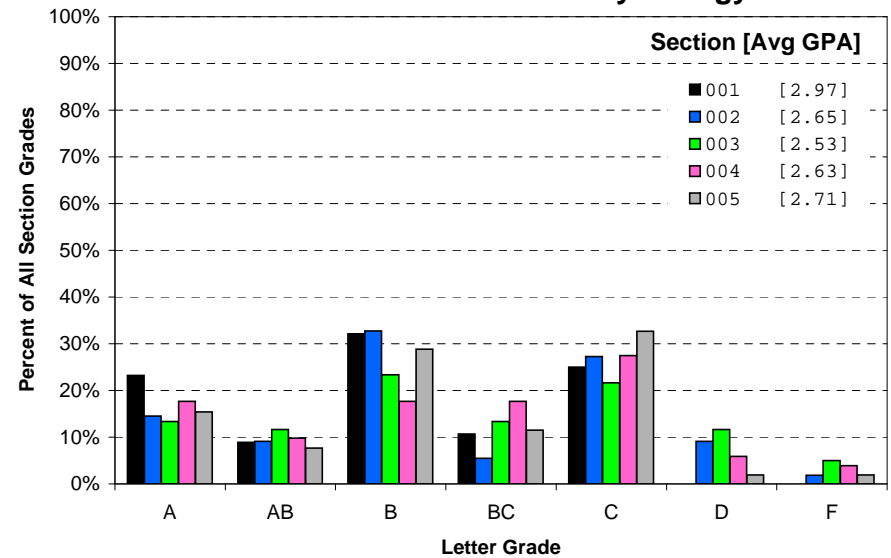
PHYSICS 202 General Physics



PSYCH 202 Introduction to Psychology

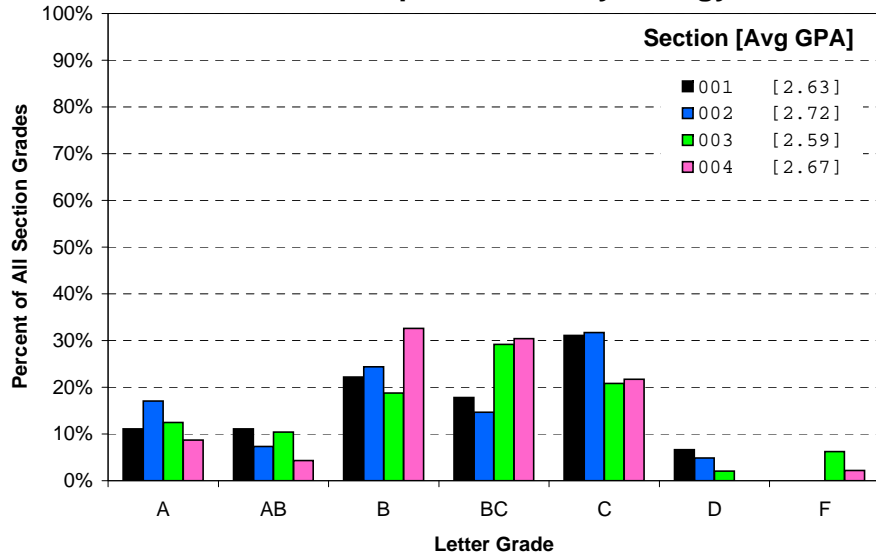


PSYCH 210 Basic Stats for Psychology

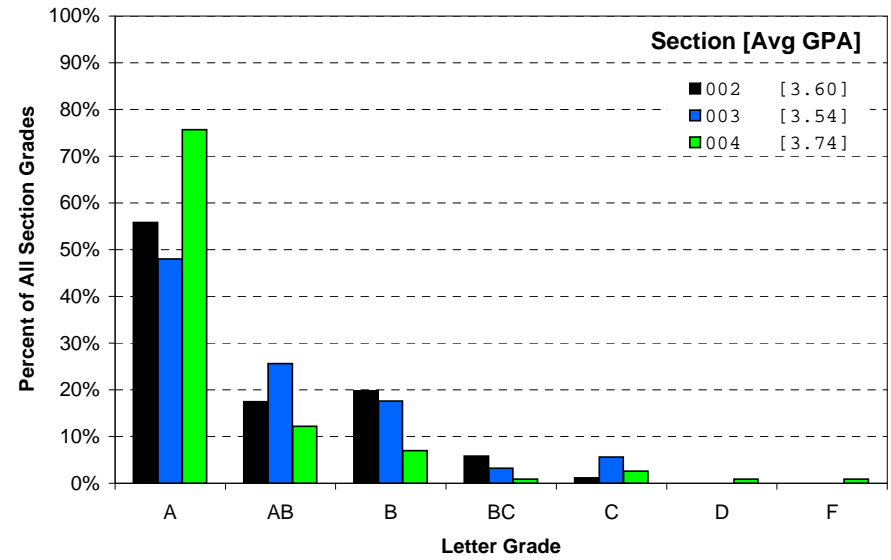


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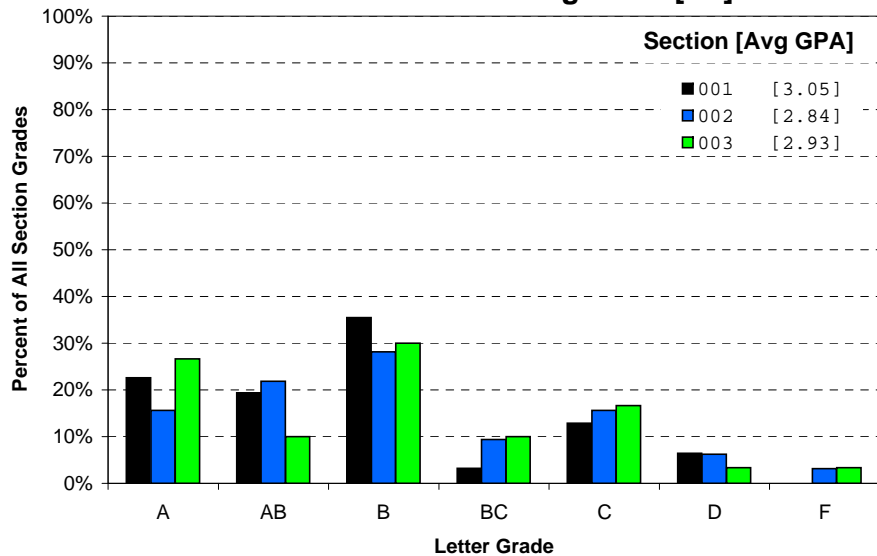
PSYCH 225 Experimental Psychology



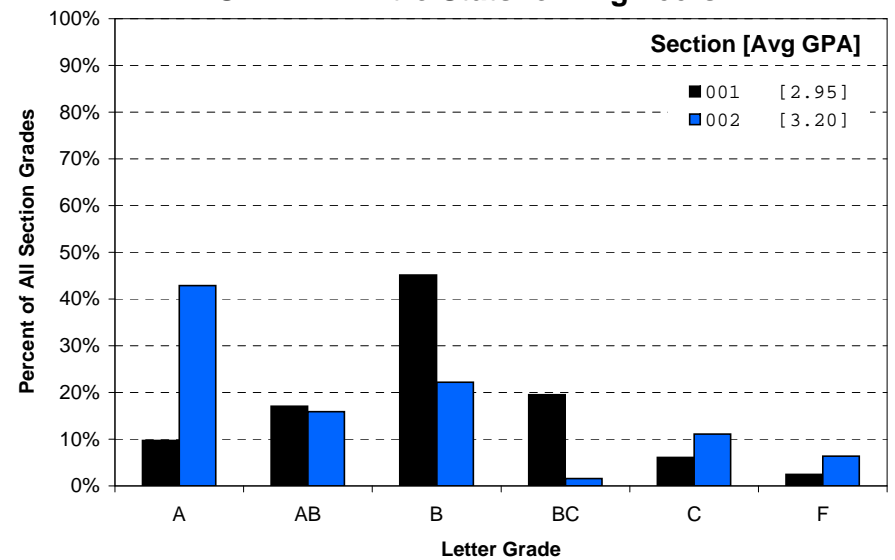
SOC 134 Am Racial&Ethnic Minorities



SOC 360 Stats for Sociologists I [XL]

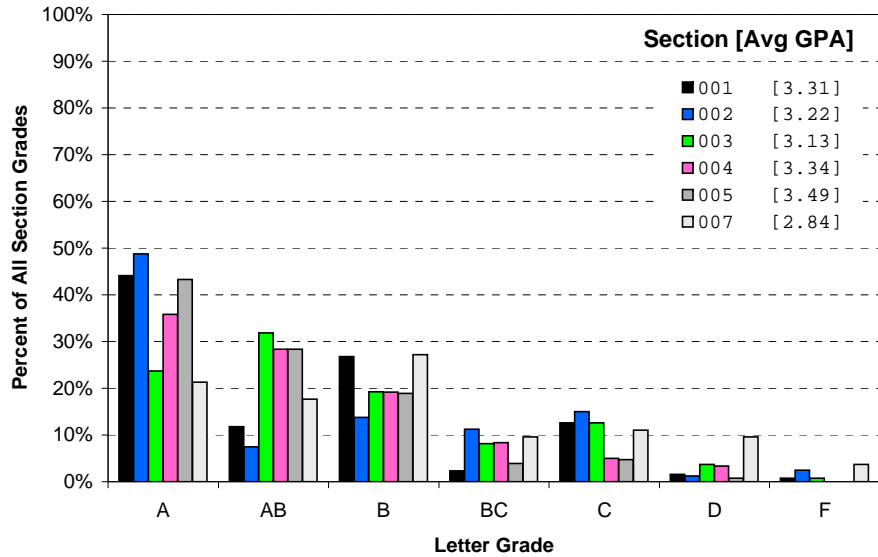


STAT 224 Intro Stats for Engineers

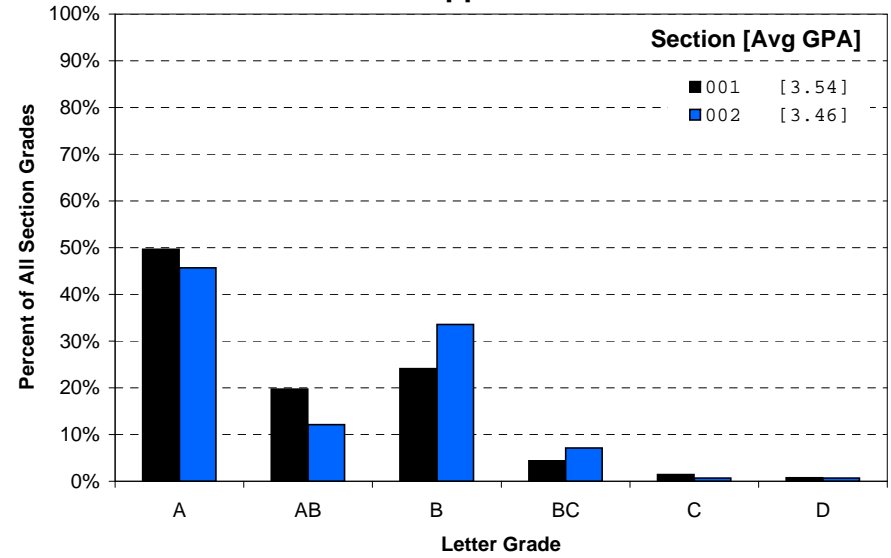


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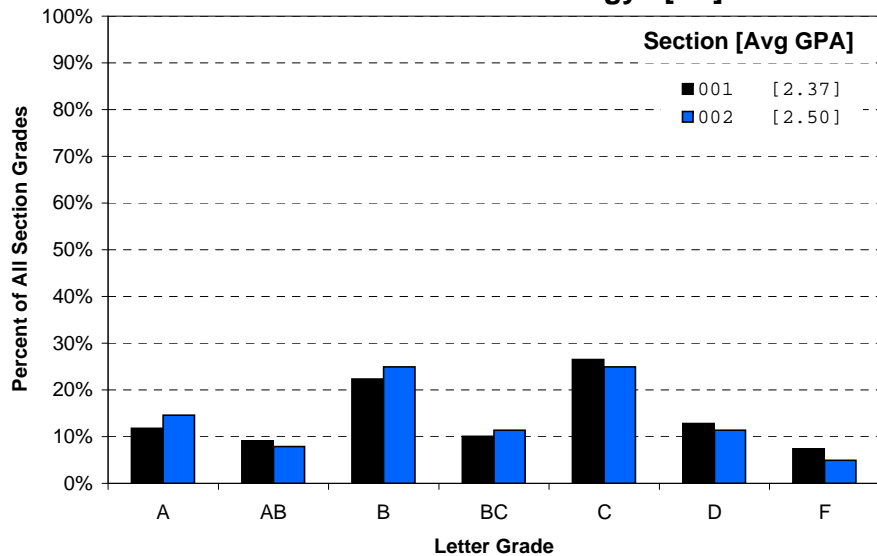
STAT 301 Intro-Statistical Methods



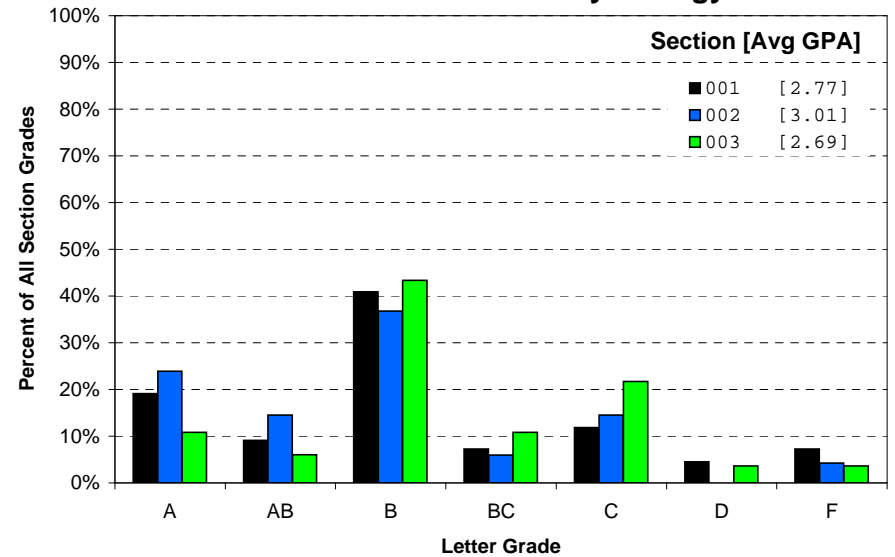
STAT 371 Intro Applied Stats-Life Sci



ZOOLOGY 101 Animal Biology [XL]

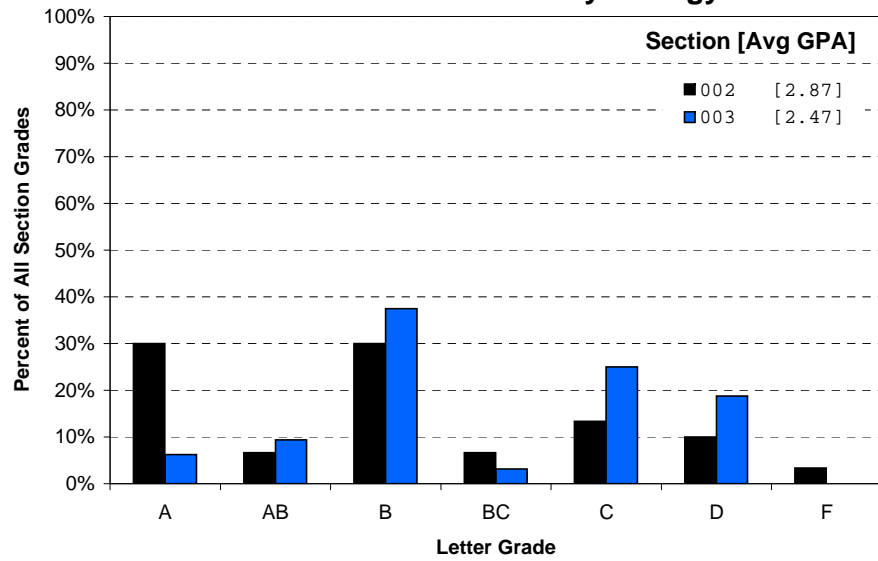


ZOOLOGY 151 Introductory Biology



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College of Letters and Science**

ZOOLOGY 153 Introductory Biology



**Distribution of Fall 2009-10 Undergraduate Letter Grades in
Courses Numbered Below 400 Having Multiple Classes of at Least 30 Undergraduates
School of Medicine & Public Health**

ANATOMY 329 Human Anatomy-Kinesiology

