

Course Changes

- I. To account for uncertainties in the final grading process, and allow students to recover from past deficiencies
 - A. The final exams (lecture and practical) will each include an additional 10% of extra credit questions. This means that a perfect exam would get 110%.
 - B. Grades are now calculated as follows:
 1. 3 lecture exams: 100 points each
 2. 2 practical exams: 100 points each
 3. Laboratory exercises: 50 points (all have been completed)
 4. Class Participation: 50 points (everybody has participated admirably)
 5. Total: 600 points
 6. I will also calculate a total and percentage by the method described in the syllabus. You will receive a grade based on whichever percentage is more favorable for you.
 - C. The grading scale will be relaxed
 1. A: 85%-100% (510 - 600 points)
 2. B: 75%-85% (450 - 509 points)
 3. C: 65%-75% (390 - 449 points)
 4. D: 50%-65% (300 - 389 points)
 5. F: <50% (< 300 points)
 - D. There will be an optional cumulative exam on the same day as the final lecture exam.
 1. The optional cumulative final will cover all material from the first two lecture exams.
 2. It will replace your lowest exam grade - whether lecture or lab).
 3. If you do not score well on the optional final, it will be ignored; it will not hurt your grade. This is a no-risk exam.
- II. To make it easier to study:
 - A. All lecture exam questions will come from the power-point slides. The text book will only be necessary for use as a reference, in cases where the power-point slides are not clear.
 - B. All required terms for the practical will be found in the list that I have been compiling and supplying to the class each week.
 1. Structures not found on the list will not be required for the practical.
 2. However, students are responsible for making sure that they can recognize each listed item on any slide or model where it is represented.
 - C. Power point slides from all earlier parts of the course will be trimmed to include only the material that is "fair game" for the optional cumulative final.
 1. As this will take some time, I will work from later lectures to earlier lectures.
 2. I will inform the class when I post new versions of the slides on the website.
 - D. As I work through the power point slides, I will also prepare some review/practice questions for each chapter.
 1. These may or may not be the same as the review/practice questions that were posted at the beginning of the term.
 2. In all cases, the review questions will emphasize the most important concepts in the class. Extraneous concepts will be removed.