Announcements November 20, 2019

1. Grades through Midterm 1 posted in EEE Gradebook
   • Grade is approximate, not fine-tuned
2. Midterm 2 score may raise your midterm 1 score.
   • I will compute a midterm 1 score based on the midterm 2 score, by
     1. Determining where your midterm 2 score falls on a Gaussian curve fit to the midterm 2 scores
     2. Computing the midterm 1 score at roughly the same position on a Gaussian curve fit to the midterm 1 scores
   • I will replace your actual midterm 1 score by your computed midterm 1 score if this works to your advantage.
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3. Final exam on Friday Dec 13 is optional.
   • I will compute a midterm average by based on midterm 1 and midterm 2 scores as describe on previous slide.
   • Your exam score will be the maximum of
     1) Your midterm average (normalized to 100)
     2) 80% of your midterm average + 20% of your final exam score (both normalized to 100)
   • If you skip the final, then the mathematics will result in (1) being chosen.
   • Note:
     • if your midterm average is 90%, taking the final could raise your exam score by at most 2 points.
     • if your midterm average is 50%, taking the final could raise your exam score by as many as 10 points.
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4. Order of assigning grades:

• I will assign grades by performing tasks in this order.
  I. Compute preliminary grades based on actual scores on midterms 1 and 2.
  II. Make a scale based on these preliminary grades
  III. Apply upgrade algorithm to midterm 1 scores based on midterm 2 scores
  IV. Apply final exam scores for those who took it.
  V. Compute grades based on scale from step II

• This means that the provision for upgrading midterm 1 score based on midterm 2 and the optional final exam will not lower anyone’s grade
5. Class on Wednesday, November 27.
   • Class will be optional. There will be nothing introduced in class that day that will be covered on either the second midterm or the final.
   • There are two strategies for achieving this.
     • I could give a lecture on a topic related to this class but not test you on it.
     • I could not give a lecture (discussion only)
   • Poll on piazza. You can vote one of three options:
     1) You prefer lecture followed by discussion
     2) You prefer that there just be a discussion
     3) You don’t care. (For example, if you are not planning on attending class.)
   • Vote by Friday night.
   • If (2) wins we will ask whether you prefer discussion at 6:30 or at 8. (separate poll).