



## F6

As difficult as it may be to believe, ‘more time spent’ does not necessarily result in higher exam scores. For what they are worth, here are some of my thoughts on why:

- An exam score should correlate with the level of rigor to which you have mastered the material. Every student brings a different skill set to this class. For some, an ‘A’ will require almost no effort. For others, there simply isn’t enough time in the term to reach the level of understanding needed to get an ‘A’ this semester in this course.
- There is a ‘right way’ to approach homework, which results in greater understanding and higher exam scores. There is also a ‘wrong way’ to approach homework, which results in high homework scores but does little to help you on an exam. **Please see comments on “Homework and Collaborative Learning”.**
- At the college level, being ‘in class’ means more than just showing up and writing down everything the professor writes down. You must be engaged and take ‘professional’ notes. So what do I mean by ‘professional’ notes? In ‘real’ applications, the purpose of note taking is to document the content of a meeting/presentation. In learning situations, you need to be able to look at what you have written and **reconstruct what went on in class providing a proper explanation of the content.** Since everyone brings a different skill set into the classroom, what is required in notes will vary from person to person. Notes should be more detailed when you are unsure or confused and will likely be less detailed when things are familiar. *The challenge is to recognize the difference while you are sitting in the class lecture.* Even if you can follow it in the class lecture, you may not be able to do it (or even recall it) outside of the class lecture. Therein lies the difficulty. *As an aside: content is not always written. Much of it is spoken!*