

CSSE 304 Final Exam specifications/rules Spring, 2014 (all of this because of "unexpected" Friday exam time)

This is basically what I sent out in the original email to the class on April 3, but with a few additions (such as locations, exam topics) and clarifications in response to questions I have had from students.

Disclaimer: If after reading partner comments and investigating I discover that you did not do your part on the interpreter project, I reserve the right to override anything in this document and adjust your course grade and/or eliminate your exam exemption.

The regular final exam time is Friday, May 30 at 1:00 PM in O157 (overflow in 159 if needed).

The early exam time is 1:35-3:20 on Wednesday, May 21 in the Myers Presentation room. It will involve only written sections.

At the time I wrote the original message, I did not realize that I would be canceling A20 and moving the due date for A19 until after the early exam. Regardless of whether you take the early exam, take the regular time-exam, or skip it altogether, **A19 will affect your final grade as described below.**

I also plan to offer some additional exam relief (for you, and also for me, since there are so many students and since I will be spending a lot of time making two exams) in the following forms. Mostly this is an attempt to reward those who have been doing very well throughout the course and to save us both the trouble of taking/grading an exam whose outcome would be unlikely to change your grade by much. It should also serve as an incentive to keep doing well on the remaining interpreter projects.

Rules on who takes which exam (or neither exam):

- 0) The written part of the final exam will not be comprehensive; it will only cover a few specific topics that I will announce in advance, mostly things covered in the course after the second evening exam. It will include some difficult topics, but you will have a fairly short list of topics to study.
- 1) **If your course average is at least 92%** after assignment 18, you can skip the exam and earn an A for the course, provided that you earn at least 60% of the credit for assignment 19. If you skip this exam and earn less than 60% of the credit for A19, your course grade will be B+.
- 2) **Else If your course average is at least 88% after assignment 18**, you can choose to skip the exam and earn a B+ for the course provided that you earn at least 60% of the credit for assignment 19. If you skip this exam and earn less than 60% of the credit for A19, your course grade will be B. Or you can take the early exam, with a chance of earning an A and a guarantee that your course grade will not be below B after the exam (or C+ if you do not get 60% on A19). Or you can take the whole exam and earn whatever grade your average indicates.
- 3) **Else if you are a graduating senior (Ben M, Thomas M, Daniel Q)**, you are required to take the early exam and skip the computer part of the final exam, and only do the short written part. In the gradebook, I will leave the computer part score of the final exam blank (since you do not even have the option to take that part), so the final exam will count slightly less toward your grade than for other students.
- 4) **Else if you wish to skip the computer part** (note that I dropped the 80% requirement), you can take the early exam, and I will use the weighted average of your percentages on the computer parts of the first two exams as your percentage on the computer part of the final exam. (See Q&A 4 below).
- 5) **Else if you wish to get the written part out of the way early**, you may do so and take the computer part on May 30. But there will be no "retakes" of the written part. After you finish the written part, you have the option of looking at the computer part, deciding not to take it, handing it back to me, and reverting to case 4) above. If, after looking at the computer part, you start using your laptop, you are committed to doing the computer part of the exam, and the score you get on it will count for you.
- 6) **Else** take both parts of the exam on May 30.

Exam details:

- 1) I anticipate 60-70% of the exam score for the written parts.
- 2) The first written part will involve reading expressions with call/cc and saying what they print, and may ask general questions about how your team implemented certain aspects of the interpreter. The only resource you will be allowed to use is a pencil or pen.
- 3) For the second written part, you will be required to bring a printout of your team's interpreter code, which you will turn in with the exam. The only other resource that you will be allowed to use for this part is a pencil or pen.
 - a. There will be an environments-and-closures problem. If you wish to skip it and have me use your percentage score from the similar problem on exam 2, you may do so.
 - b. There will be one or more problems that ask you to annotate your team's code, indicating how you would add a certain feature to your team's interpreter project.
 - c. Zero or more "what does this print?" or "why doesn't this work?" problems,
 - d. "Which would you choose and why?" questions in terms of implementing interpreters or data structures.
- 4) The computer part will mainly be about adding something(s) to your team's interpreter. It (they) will be something that should not require very many lines of code.
- 5) Other possible topics (some of which we have not yet covered) that could appear on written part 2 or the computer part of the final exam:
 - i. Coroutines
 - ii. Engines
 - ~~iii. Fluid-let~~
 - iv. Call-with-values, values
 - v. Data-structure continuations (such as the example from Day 34 class)
 - ~~vi. Going beyond CPS to imperative form.~~
 - vii. Define-syntax.

Q & A:

- 1) Can you take the early written part and then decide whether to take the computer part?
 - a. Yes. But I will not tell you your score on the written part before the computer part happens, because that would give you an advantage over those who take both parts on May 30.
- 2) Can you take the written part on Friday May 30, and then decide whether to take the computer part?
 - a. Yes.
- 3) Can you look at the computer part on Friday, and then decide whether to take that part or use your previous programming average?
 - a. Yes. When you receive the computer part, you can look at it for a couple of minutes and decide whether to take that part. If you decide not to take it, just give it back to me before you start your computer. Once you start your computer, you are committed and your score on the computer part will count.
- 4) How do I calculate my "exam computer part weighted percentage", based on my scores in the Moodle gradebook?
 - a. $(E1c + E2-3) / (55 + 72)$. The weighting of the exam scores is built-in, because Exam 2 was worth more points than exam 1.