**Subject: Waive Final Exam Rule for CSC230**

Dear Dean Mina Hoorfar and Associate Dean Lillanne Jackson,

I am writing this email to bring to your attention the difficulties that many students, including myself, have been facing in the CSC230 course under Professor Ahmad Abdullah's instruction. I am writing this email as a petition to waive the requirement of 50% on the final exam to pass the course, considering the hardships that students have faced in the class.

To start with, the semester started on a sour note as Professor Abdullah announced that he would not respond to all our emails. This made communication very difficult, which is a critical component of learning. Additionally, the labs were often weeks ahead of the lecture slides, making it difficult to connect the dots between the two. By the time the course drop date came around, no student received one grade making it hard to predict the outcome of the course and adjust accordingly.

Moreover, there was no information posted about what the final exam would cover, which is a significant concern. The final exam is where students must prove their competency in the entire course, regardless of their grades going into it. When students asked about the exam's content, Professor Abdullah responded in a lecture, saying that "everything taught could be tested." However, half of the final only tested two main topics: interrupts and pipelines. The other half was on AVR assembly language. On top of this, the topics that were covered were not emphasized or included in any of the assignments, giving us little preparation or knowledge that this information would be important. Many important topics in the course outline “Course Objectives And Learning Outcomes” were not tested on:

- Explain the concepts of RISC and CISC computer architecture, emphasizing RISC.

- Explain the elements of an instruction cycle.

- Summarize the instruction cycle.

- Write small programs in the C language, using C as a cross-compiler from a higher-level language to an assembly language.

- Describe the function of compilers, linkers, loaders, and static and dynamic libraries

- Describe the concepts of cache and virtual memory

- Distinguish between memory mapping techniques

This is seven out of the twelve learning outcomes not tested. Does this justify a pass/fail exam? The cumulative final examination did not test the entire course's competency, which is a significant problem.

Furthermore, CAL students were at a disadvantage on the exam because they did not receive multiple pages of the AVR instruction set that were promised to them. As a result, many students who were relying on this information found it difficult to answer a question worth 28% of the exam, which involved division in AVR assembly language. These biases in the exam not only disregarded the students' hard work and knowledge of the course material but also showed a lack of preparation on the professor's part.

In summary, we, the students of CSC230, are requesting a waiver of the final exam requirement to obtain 50% to pass the course. We believe that this is necessary to mitigate the hardships that many students have faced throughout the semester. One look at the final exam and knowledge of the course would show it is not a proper test of competency. This would be a very simple solution to our frustrating problem. We hope that you will give due consideration to our request and take appropriate action.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

**Nicholas Lund**, V00961439

On Behalf of the students of CSC230

https://www.youtube.com/@Nexpo