

## EE450 Midterm I guidelines

- 1) Your second exam will be on Tuesday, April 2 with a **time limit of 80 minutes**. Check <http://web-app.usc.edu/maps/#upc/> if you do not remember the directions.

Exam	Start Time	Location
1	<b>2:05pm</b>	THH 201
2	<b>3:30pm</b>	SGM 101
3	Arranged by DEN office	

Exam	Who should take the exam?
1	<b>Students registered for the 2:00-3:20pm section</b>
2	<b>Students registered for 3:30-4:50pm section</b>
3	Remote students only

- 2) To make the exams fair, no one in exam 1 can leave the session before 3:30pm even if done early. NOTE: Quite a few students in the second session of Quiz turned in their papers early. Also in the first session some early students decided to turn in their papers early, to spend the remaining exam time doing their other stuff. I believe that did not work well for a few of those students as they received below-average marks. My expectation for someone who is done early was above 60 in Quiz. Therefore this is what I suggest: Use all the Midterm I time and check your answers for as many times as possible! This worked perfectly well for me when I was a student. I was super-fast in exams, but most of the times I was the last person to leave the room; only to check my work multiple times and at times catching some serious mistakes ;)
- 3) Exam room rules (**failing any of the following rules, or violating any academic integrity policies of USC may adversely affect your EE450 grade and/or USC standing.**)
- It is a closed book exam. No notes or white papers are allowed. Your exam has enough papers to write your answers and do scratch work. Papers should not be unstapled.**
  - No Calculators are allowed. No cell phones are allowed. The problems are designed such that approximating the final numerical value without a calculator is straightforward. For all numerical calculations, you still need to plug in all the input values and calculate the final; approximation is allowed if necessary and you won't lose any points for that.**
  - Before the exam starts, keep the distributed exam papers face down and wait for our call to start your exam.**
  - Please be there in the exam room a few minutes early to find a seat. Please choose your seat such that the occupied seats form columns of students, with maximum distance from others; therefore there is at least one empty column between two neighboring columns of students.**
  - When the exam time is up, stop writing immediately, raise your papers and pass them to the student next to you and towards the aisles.**
  - Any academic integrity violation in exam will result in a minimum penalty of F in the course and would be reported to SJACS office for possibly more penalties.**
- 4) You may use a pencil or pen. It is recommended to bring erasers and rulers.
- 5) You need to bring your student ID.
- 6) The exam covers units 1, 5, 6, and 7 (up to and including page 108). Also HTTP and FTP protocols will be in Midterm I. Note that 802.5 and 802.11 (units 7 pages 109-159) won't be in Midterm I.
- 7) There may be some short answer (including some multiple choice and true/false) questions that weigh a maximum of **20%** of the total Midterm I weight. I look at the slides (units 5 to 7 (pages 1-108), HTTP and FTP) to design them. The subjects of units 0 and 2 to 4 may indirectly help, however I will not design short answer question directly from those units. All the short answer problems have already been discussed during lectures. They are all conceptual, and mostly analytical. You will not see questions

that solely target your memorization capabilities, (e.g., you won't be asked about an acronyms). You will not see software coding questions.

- 8) The remaining problems include numerical/parametric calculations (from units 5 to 7, HTTP & FTP) similarly to the ones in your first 4 homework assignments. The weight of those is at least **80%**. You will be provided with practice set II and its solutions latest by March 26. Sample Quiz and practice set I will also be useful. Note that HW4 will be assigned according to the syllabus schedule.
- 9) The exam format/style will be very similar to that of the Quiz. Midterm I problems will be similar to what you have seen in lectures or discussion classes, and also practiced in HW assignments, sample Quiz, practice set I and II. If you have attended or watched the lectures, worked on the homework and practice problems and understood the related ideas, you will find the exam straightforward.
- 10) You are highly advised to watch the Friday discussion classes related to FTP/HTTP, Quiz practice and also the ones after your Quiz, including Quiz review.
- 11) The grader may not be able to grade your HW4 before Midterm I. Therefore you may make a copy of your HW4 papers before turning your work.
- 12) Please use "MidtermI-related", and upcoming "Practice Set 1&2" forums to post your questions.
- 13) My office hours before the exam are:
  - a. **Extra: Friday March 15, 2:30 to 6:00pm**
  - b. **Office hours during break:**
    - i. **Monday 3/18: 10:30am-4:30pm**
    - ii. **Thursday 3/21: 2pm-7pm**
  - c. **For the week of 3/25 to 3/29, I don't have office hours, however you may call me any time.**
  - d. **Extra: April 2, 11:00am to 12:15pm.**
- 14) If necessary, please email me at [shahin.nazarian@usc.edu](mailto:shahin.nazarian@usc.edu). You may also call me on 626 200 7893 any time; leave a voicemail if I am not available and I'll call you back as soon as I can.

Good Luck,

Shahin