

## **Preparation suggestions for the midterm**

**It is recommended that you carry out the following steps (preferably in order) to prepare for the upcoming midterm exam**

**1. Read / Browse the sections of the textbook that we covered.**

- a. These sections are listed at the beginning of the lecture packets

**2. Review your notes.**

- a. Review any calculations we did in class and try them for yourself
- b. Making sure that you are familiar with concepts is just as important as knowing how to calculate the correct result. If a concept is still unclear after you reviewed your notes, then refer to your textbook.

**3. Go back over your homework problems.**

- a. Any homework problem that you were given was assigned because it highlighted an important concept or technique. Thus, if there are any homework problems you do not understand, you should re-attempt them and refer to the posted solutions.
- b. The simulation exercises often did not require much in the way of calculations, but rather emphasized concepts. Make sure to review these exercises as well

**4. Prepare your exam “Cheat Sheet”**

- a. For the exam you are permitted to create and bring a 1-page (front and back, typed or handwritten) “cheat sheet”. You can put anything you want on this sheet. I will not provide you with equations during the exam. Therefore, I recommend that you include any equations that you needed to complete your homework and quizzes. You may also include general notes, reminders and/or definitions if you think it will help you. You will be asked to submit your cheat sheet alongside your exam.

## 5. Review the quizzes

- a. Take some time to review your quiz performance. After each quiz, you took the time to reflect on it. This is the opportunity take advantage of those activities. When you took the quiz, what didn't you know or understand how to do? Spend extra time on areas where gaps in your knowledge were identified
- b. Video recordings of quiz solutions are posted online for those who would like to see the problems worked out

## 6. Review the previous exam posted on courseweb

- a. Taking the practice exam as if it were the real one and then reviewing your performance is a good exercise to do. However, please do not be misled: **Simply reviewing the practice exam is not enough preparation.** You will be given a new exam that is based on the homework, quizzes and in-class discussions from this semester. At best, there may be some similar problems on the new exam. At minimum, looking at my previous exam will give you a good idea of the difficulty level and general structure of my exams.