Math 053 Calculus II. Fall 2008.

Results of the Midterm Exam 1.

Our goal is that everyone of you should learn all the material covered in this course by the end of the semester. I will try to help you in this difficult task but you are the only one that can actually accomplish it. I know that everyone of you is capable of learning not only this subject but also many others that are much more complicated. However, this is not going to be easy because in this course we have high standards; the standards required for you to be a successful engineer, for example. The things you are learning now will come up very often later on in your career and you have to be sure that you have these tools available when you need them.

For this reason, it is very important to evaluate what we are doing so that we can make things better. That is the purpose of the exams and the survey that you filled out after the exam. Here are your answers, your comments and also information about the results of the exam.

Some specific points will be discussed in class.

Thank you for helping me gather this information.

a) Do you think that you have a good understanding of the material covered so far?

- No: 31%
- Yes: 23%
- Somewhat: 46%

One of our goals will be to reduce the percentage of people answering No or Somewhat to the above question.

b) From 0 to 10, how do you think you did in this test?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Your guess %</th>
<th>Actual %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2:</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3:</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7:</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to know how much you know and to be able to accurately state how well you did in an exam. This is not easy and comes with a lot of practice. You were close with your estimates with a peak at 6 – 7.
If your grade is below 60 points you have to change the way you are studying. For example, you may consider coming to office hours, doing more homework problems, working with other classmates, more reading and thinking, etc.

If your grade is above 60 points you may also consider changing the way you are studying. Remember that the material we are working on right now is more difficult than one tested in this exam and so it may require a bigger effort to get the same results in the next exam.

Every exam is cumulative, this means that problems similar to the ones in this exam are going to appear in the next exams. This will give you the opportunity to master the earlier material while you are learning the new one.

c) Have you studied with other classmates during the last couple of weeks?

- **No:** 52 %
- **Yes:** 40 %
- **Somewhat:** 8 %

I learn a lot of things from my colleges and I used to learn a lot of things from my classmates at school. I don’t think I would have graduated from school without all the hours we spent with some of my friends doing math. For some students it is easier to talk to other students than to talk to the professor. On the other hand, you shouldn’t be afraid to ask questions in class, to come to office hours or to arrange an appointment with me to get help. For other sources of help, please, refer to the handout about Getting help that was posted in blackboard last week.

d) Have you read the textbook as the material was covered in class?

- **No:** 15 %
- **Yes:** 65 %
- **Somewhat:** 20 %

This is actually a must. You can not expect to learn the material that is in the book without reading the book and spending a lot of time solving problems and thinking. In a few minutes of reading you can get what it could take an hour in the lectures. The time that we have in hour meetings is never enough to cover every detail of the book. You have to fill in the gaps by reading the text and solving problems.

e) Did you find the lectures a good source of help to understand the material covered so far?

- **No:** 25 %
- **Yes:** 42 %
- **Somewhat:** 33 %

We will talk about this in class. Some of the suggestions that you’ve got are good and not so hard to implement. I’ll do my best to make the material more simple to you.
f) Have you worked on the homework assignments as they were assigned?

- **No:** 15 %
- **Yes:** 51 %
- **Somewhat:** 34 %

Most of the problems assigned in the exams are similar to the ones you find as examples in the book and the problems assigned as homework. Read again the comments to question d).

g) If you could keep something and change something related to the way this course is organized, what would that be?

- **About the lectures:** Cover the sections with more detail. The way lectures are held. Lectures more clear. More explanations on problems. Too much material per class. Some of the answers are vague. Slow down lectures. Go over homework. The lectures and homework should be more oriented towards book. Maybe start the class going over the examples in the section. First do organize lecture, then assign homework dealing with that topic, instead of assigning homework when all material has not been covered. We need more repetition to instill the topics discussed. More examples! More practice problems in class. More examples relevant to the test level material. I would make it so that the material was taught more straightforward. Finish the examples.

- **Other comments:** More time to discuss assignments with other classmates. Too much homework. Have the homework worth some extra points. More test review. Change the 1st exam to 5%. Make homework + attendance worth more. Assign a few problems on the test that encompass everything. Get points for homework. More going over homework problems or correcting so we know if we are doing it wrong. I need to wake up early! Study guide for test. Give examples that are on test. Keep lecture-collect homework. Add pop-quizzes to keep me focused on short-term goals. Keep everything else. The wouldn’t be homework using stuff we hadn’t gone over. Keep the professor change the lecture a little to make it more thorough. Move more slowly. Change the lectures so we have in class group assignments to work during class with others to help understand topic after it’s taught. Change my work ethic towards this class. Don’t change anything, so far so good. 15 % want more time for the exam. More office hour times. I would not keep anything, the class is not very productive. I found that I could get the same knowledge from the book and not going to class. If we could get a SI (Suplemental Instructor) for this course that would help a lot.

- **To keep:** Homework assignments. Whiteboard teaching style. It is fine the way it is. I need to change the way I study. I think you are doing a great job teaching as it is, not too slow, not too fast. Keep the lectures. Keep it fun. Nothing should be changed.

I'm sure we will do better next time.

Thanks,

Sebastian