

Week 12

Next week's lecture will be virtual!!

- Some of you will probably be travelling late on Friday
- Some video content to watch
- Homework related to the videos
 - Will come out late next week
 - Due Friday after break
- Counts for both homework and lecture attendance
- Last week of class (after break) will be a survey of research areas

Final exams

Final exam conflicts

<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part2/3-201/>

<https://registrar.illinois.edu/courses-grades/final-exam-schedule-public/>

Synchronous vs. asynchronous courses/exams

- Course
 - Synchronous: specific meeting time
 - At least for some part of the course
 - Asynchronous: all self-scheduled activities
- Exam
 - Synchronous: one exam time (or maybe a couple options)
 - Asynchronous: take-home exams, CBTF, etc
- Student code rules aren't completely clear
 - Hoping they'll clean this up next year.

Exam week

- Friday Dec 8 through Friday Dec 15
- Registrar doesn't put exams on the Sunday
- Three exam periods each day
 - 8-11 am
 - 1:30-4:30pm
 - 7-10pm
- Also asynchronous exams (e.g. CBTF)
 - Scheduling window must be at least 24 hours long

When are your final exams?

- Course explorer
 - [CS 423](#)
 - [PHYS 211](#)
 - Make sure you're looking at this term's offering of the course
- What to see
 - Type of exam: non-combined, combined, arranged
 - Is there a conflict time?
- If nothing on course explorer, look for course announcements
 - Asynchronous (e.g. CBTF, takehome)
 - No final (e.g. course has final project)

Courses with multiple sections

- Combined exam: all sections take exam at the same day/time
 - Suppose to have a second, conflict time on course explorer
- Non-combined exam: each section has its own day/time
 - Might not have a conflict time
 - Make sure you pull the day/time for the right section!

Check your exam schedule soon

Conflicts must be reported
By the last day of classes

No finals outside of final exam week

- No final exams on Reading Day (Thursday Dec 7th)
- No final exams prior to Reading Day
 - But very late midterms are ok
- No final exams at non-standard times
- Nothing due after the end of finals week
 - Unless you have an incomplete

What is a final exam conflict (officially)?

- Two exams at the same time
- Exams in three consecutive exam periods
 - Or something similar involving an asynchronous exam
- Religious conflict (e.g. Friday evening, Saturday)
 - Must inform instructor w/in a week of exam schedule posted
- A few other situations that are much less likely

Unofficial conflicts

- E.g. travel plans
- You're at the mercy of the instructor
- Doesn't hurt to ask

How to resolve conflicts

- Use posted options
 - E.g. conflict time posted on course explorer
 - You must try this first
- Contact instructors for a special conflict exam
 - Must ask by last day of classes
 - Strongly advise asking earlier

Using posted exam options

- Move an asynchronous exam within its window
- Conflict times posted on course explorer
 - Check syllabus for sign-up procedures
- If two solutions, use conflict for larger course
 - Rarely enforced

Who arranges the special conflict exam?

- Priority by type of exam
 - Non-combined exams have priority
 - Then combined exams
 - Then arranged or asynchronous exams
- Priority by size of class
 - The larger course has to solve the problem
- Not clear which instructor has to handle it?
 - Contact all the possibilities
- Send instructor(s) your full final exam schedule.

A special time just for me? Awwwww.....

- Big courses often have unposted “conflict conflict” times
- Guest in another exam
 - Another section
 - Another course
- Or it might actually be a special time and room

Multi-room exams

- Be clear on which room you're supposed to go to
- The wrong room may not have
 - A seat for you
 - A copy of the exam for you
- The two rooms may be very far apart

DRES accommodations and final exams

- Extended time makes a 3-hour final last 4.5 or 6 hours
 - Huge pain to schedule
 - DRES Testing gets crowded
 - DRES Testing wants times booked further ahead
 - Unsympathetic instructors may be picky about when you take them
- **START SCHEDULING EARLY**

Problems near the end of term

Problems you might be able to resolve quickly

- Missed the final exam
 - Too sick to take it
 - Overslept etc
- Contact instructor right away to try to arrange a makeup
- If that doesn't work, see next slide

Can't resolve the problem within exam week?

- Examples
 - Missed final later in exam week
 - Sick for too many days
 - External problems (e.g. family)
- Contact college advising office
- “Incomplete”
 - Authorized by your college's advising office
 - Instructor must submit grade by 8th week of following semester
- Do not try set up an informal incomplete

Informal incompletes

- After finals but before the grade entry deadline
 - Not supposed to happen, but it does
 - Mostly project work for upper-level courses
 - Depends on the instructor
- After grade entry deadline
 - No.
 - Seriously, no. It's not only forbidden but you're at the mercy of the instructor.
 - Get an official incomplete

Beyond regular coursework

Research and Independent Study: Finding a project

- Research internship programs
 - [PURE](#)
 - Ads on <https://course-assistants.cs.illinois.edu/>
 - [CS summer research program](#)
 - Other summer internships
- Meet faculty and grad students
 - 400-level courses
 - Research talks
- Fliers on corkboards (so last century)
- Can be in another department

Research and Independent Study: The Paperwork

- Need a CS (or CS affiliate) faculty advisor
 - Can use a “de jure” co-advisor if your real advisor is not CS
- Courses
 - CS 397 Independent Study
 - CS 497 Team project
 - CS 499 Senior Thesis
- Fill out electronic form to register

Want to be course staff?

- Positions
 - Tutoring
 - Software development (e.g. CS 124)
 - Grading (e.g. CS 374)
- Compensation
 - For 1 hour credit (first time CS 124)
 - Paid (most positions)
- <https://course-assistants.cs.illinois.edu/>
- Early courses already hiring, upper-level ones often later