The results of ECE110’s first midterm exam were pleasing, on average, to the ECE110 staff, BUT...

maybe you, personally, feel that the exam doesn’t truly reflect your mastery of the material? Maybe you, personally, feel like you could have done better with a little more time or an exam more-closely matched in style to the homework? Since our goal is that you master the material and have every opportunity to prove so in a fair assessment, we are experimenting with 2nd-chance testing. Here is how it works:

• The exam will be online at a testing facility in DCL using the PrairieLearn software platform.
• You will have 1 hr 50 min to complete the exam consisting of 10-15 problems.
• The problems are short, numeric answer (similar to Lon Capa) with three opportunities to answer correctly. There is a penalty for wrong guesses. Your score will be 10, 7, or 5 points, respectively, for each additional try.
• You may not bring a help sheet (a teaching tool that only acts as a weak crutch during an exam).
• You are allowed to use the on-computer calculator. The numbers might not be as “nice”.
• Your score on the 2nd-chance exam does not directly replace your first midterm score, but modifies it as specified in the table on the next page based on both your original midterm score and the 2nd-chance exam score. The potential benefit is higher for students who had weaker performance on the original midterm exam.
• DRES accommodations apply if you have any. Bring your letter of accommodation to the proctor in the facility, but, for extended time, you must not sign up for the last hour of the day (the facility will close at the normal time).

To be allowed to take advantage of this opportunity, you must show due diligence in improving your mastery of the material. The first makeup assignment (to earn back lost Lon Capa points) plays a role...

• Read the instructions at https://edu.cs.illinois.edu/cbtf.html.
• Sign up for the 2nd-chance exam at https://edu.cs.illinois.edu/testcenter.
• Complete the Makeup assignment (to be posted by Friday, March 18) in PrairieLearn.
• The makeup assignment will offered in the same format as the 2nd-chance test; 10, 7, and 5 pts.
• The makeup assignment is scaled to a possible 40 pts and used to replace lost Lon Capa points.
• The makeup assignment can be done using any Internet connection (ie. from home).
• You must score at least 60% on that makeup assignment BEFORE you enter the testing facility for your 2nd-chance exam.

Comments:

As said above, this is not a reaction to the overall exam grades (with which we are pleased!). Rather, this is a teaching-and-learning technique to motivate stronger learning at a time when the material is fresh, your shortcomings are identified, and your motivation for improvement is high! ECE110 remains committed to providing the resources for learning and we believe this technique may have significant value.

You are not required to take the 2nd-chance exam. Taking the 2nd-chance exam can only affect your first midterm score in a positive (but never a negative) way. Taking the 2nd-chance exam does not forfeit any opportunities offered by the final exam (read the syllabus!) regarding the replacement of the lowest midterm score.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Grade</th>
<th>Second Chance</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>72</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Example:

- If the original grade is 90 and the second chance is 75, the final grade is 100.
- If the original grade is 88 and the second chance is 70, the final grade is 98.
- If the original grade is 86 and the second chance is 65, the final grade is 92.
- If the original grade is 84 and the second chance is 60, the final grade is 90.
- If the original grade is 82 and the second chance is 55, the final grade is 87.
- If the original grade is 80 and the second chance is 50, the final grade is 90.
- If the original grade is 78 and the second chance is 45, the final grade is 83.
- If the original grade is 76 and the second chance is 40, the final grade is 81.
- If the original grade is 74 and the second chance is 35, the final grade is 80.
- If the original grade is 72 and the second chance is 30, the final grade is 79.
- If the original grade is 70 and the second chance is 25, the final grade is 78.
- If the original grade is 68 and the second chance is 20, the final grade is 76.
- If the original grade is 66 and the second chance is 15, the final grade is 75.
- If the original grade is 64 and the second chance is 10, the final grade is 74.
- If the original grade is 62 and the second chance is 5, the final grade is 73.
- If the original grade is 60 and the second chance is 0, the final grade is 72.