About Exam 1

Our first exam will take place, for students living in New England, in Science Center A in lieu of the first hour of lecture on Wednesday, 25 October 2006; distant students should have arranged already, per the syllabus, for remote administration of this exam.

This exam will be followed by a 60-minute surprise.

This exam will cover topics from Lectures 1, 2, 4, and 5.

This exam will be closed-book; you may not use anything other than a pen or pencil to complete it.

The format of the exam will be similar to that of last year’s exam, which is available in the course website’s Exams area, along with its answer key.

The purpose of the exam is to give you an opportunity to demonstrate that you understand the material that we’ve been exploring.

The exam is worth 20% of your final grade.

On Saturday, 21 October 2006, from 11:00 A.M. ET until 1:00 P.M. ET, the teaching fellows will hold a course-wide review session for the first exam. The location will be announced by email. Attendance is optional but encouraged. Recordings of this session should be available in the course website’s Exams area by Tuesday, 24 October 2006.

How should you study for this exam? Certainly review your own notes. Consider reviewing recommended readings. Realize that *Computers Are Your Future 2006* includes fairly comprehensive chapter reviews and offers a “Companion Website,” accessible via the course website’s Resources area. However, focus your studies on jargon, notes, and slides from lectures.

Download last year’s exam and take it for practice.

Do be sure that you understand each lecture’s jargon. That is, know (in one or more sentences) what each of those terms mean. But, again, the purpose of this exam is for you to show us that you understand what each of those terms means; we do not expect or desire verbatim regurgitation of those terms’ definitions.

On occasion, required readings have covered more material than we have covered in this class. If there is a topic in one of your books that we did not discuss in lecture, that does not appear in some form on a handout, and that has not appeared in some form on a problem set, do not bother studying that topic. There’s plenty of other material to study. :-)

Good luck with your preparation! Do not hesitate to contact the teaching staff or to study with other students.