

CS/ENGRI 172, Fall 2003: Computation, Information, and Intelligence
10/8/03: Midterm Information

Time: The midterm exam is on **Friday, October 17th**, 10:10 - 11:00 AM, Hollister 306 (during class time, and in the same classroom).

Content: The midterm will cover the “computation” part of the class. You are expected to be familiar with all of the material from homeworks 1, 2, and 3, and all of the lectures up to and including the lecture on the uncomputability of the halting function of Monday, October 6th.

The midterm will be similar in style to the homeworks. However, the exam is an in-class test, so the questions will be designed to have short answers.

The exam will assume you thoroughly understand the homework problems *and* have carefully read our solutions to the homework problems.

Logistics: The exam is closed book, but you may bring one 8.5” x 11” sheet of notes (front and back) into the exam with you. You may write whatever you like on this note sheet, but see below for some advice.

There will not be a review session for the midterm. However, there are many office hours between now and the midterm, and you are encouraged to use them to answer any questions you may still have about the course material. A careful reading of your notes, comments on your graded homeworks, and the homework solutions should help you come up with specific questions. As always, if you cannot attend office hours, you may also make an appointment to meet with us at another time.

If you are missing a course handout or a solution set for one of the homeworks, copies of all materials handed out in class are also available in the racks outside Upson 303. Some of these materials are also available on the course webpage.

Some Advice:

As you begin to study, we suggest that you go through your lecture notes carefully, trying to summarize the main points of each class and understand how the pieces fit together. This will help you to test your understanding, and help you economize in using your allotted sheet of notes wisely. Based on past students’ experience, it rarely helps to simply try to cram onto your notes sheet every single piece of information one can. For a short timed exam like this, the more you have organized the information in your head, the more efficient you can be. Many students also report that the process of putting together a small set of notes is a very effective study tool.

You are also very strongly encouraged to read the solutions you were given for each of the homeworks. These show you ways to think about the problems, and include general comments and sometimes alternate ways to go about answering the questions.

Finally, a very effective strategy for preparing for exams is to make up your own questions and try solving them yourself (or with a study group). Use the same techniques as you see on the homeworks - consider what happens when a condition is changed, removed, or extended. When you understand the ramifications of such alterations, you have truly understood the original concept.