

## Advice to Future Signals & Systems Students from Fall 2009 students:

- I didn't really look at the old exams posted at professor's website. Those old exams are really helpful and guide your review for the final.
- Tip: You can use a calculator on tests, so learn how to use it. The `expand()` function alone will you much time and heartache on partial fraction expansion problems, `desolve()` function will help with step response problems.
- These are some of my suggestions to the future students taking this class.
  - I strongly suggest to attend the class regularly.
  - Practice atleast two previous question papers before tests and do each and every homework. Although it seems to be hard sometimes but they are concept oriented one way we can learn the concepts with homeworks very well.
- Advice for future students:
  - At least study old tests before setting actual test.
  - Form a study group.
  - Don't wait too late to do a homework.
- Start your homeworks as soon as possible.
- Stay on top of your labs, they can get the best of you.
- Use the break to get caught up.
- Advice
  - Do not miss class, but if you have to email Dr. Barney-Smith ahead of time.
  - Form study groups and use them
  - Understand homework and ask questions if you don't; the material does Not go AWAY!
  - Do Past exams!
- Knowing the material is not enough, you still need to work on it.
- Advice
  - Come prepared to every class
  - Form groups to do the homework and to study for tests.
  - Go over old exams and make sure you understand the questions. Exams are very similar each year.
  - Know how to do the labs. They will help you understand the material presented in lecture.
- Get enough sleep. Plan a schedule and do your homework early, if you do it the night before, you won't get enough sleep.
- Use the professor's office hours.
- Remember, you are not alone in the class, only in exams and 75% of the final. ☺
- Don't bring cookies on the day of the z-transform class, bring pizza instead.
- Attempt homework even if its not covered so that you have questions to ask!

- Suggestions: do the homework ASAP and then there is time to ask around, revisit the labs and think about them, they can provide some good insights.
- Advice: Get your formal lab report done early so you don't get dumped on at the end of the semester. Additionally, make sure to stay on top of the homeworks and labs as they tend to take a reasonably large amount of time.
- Make sure you do all of the labs so you can go back to them and use the material for current labs. Also make sure you understand the labs for the final exam.
- Make a good note sheet for your tests. Get the second book by Schaum's too. Another good book is Signal Processing First by James H. McClellan, Ronald W. Schager, and Mark A. Yoder which Dr. Elisa Barney Smith has a copy in her office.
- Advice: Practice a lot for the test. Review previous test questions before the test. For the lab, try to submit formal lab report at least 3 weeks before the due date and have her check your lab report. The suggestions/comments that she provides will help a lot to improve the lab grade.