MIDTERM SEASON
And How to Survive It

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It's rough...
But you got this!
Overview & Styles

→ Generally, midterms are the same.

→ What material is covered and their weight depends on the course and the professor's teaching philosophy.

→ Exams will take place usually on Canvas. Either in the form of a Canvas Quiz, or take-home PDF, or both.

→ Most professors will allow for open-note exams but very few may use applications like Lockdown (which observes your activity) to confirm academic honesty.

→ Do remember that courses follow a weighted system, so make sure you make your grade calculations and checks based on that!
Note-Taking Tips

If lectures are recorded, take advantage of that to re-re-re-review the material and quadruple-check your notes and any-details you've missed. Rewriting notes might also help.

Make sure to write down as many examples as possible (for later review) and occasionally paraphrase to make sure you get the full picture a little better (don't just copy things mindlessly).

Write down some little annotations or side notes, explaining why a step was taken in a problem, or maybe clarifying something unclear. Note what you didn't understand so you can look into it later!

Let your professor know if things are going too fast, most will oblige & slow down!

Quick Tip!
If it still feels like things are going too fast, or are hard to note, try taking screenshots or pictures!
**Problem-Solving Tips**

Understand what the problem is asking, split it into parts if you have to.

**EVs (Equations & Variables)**
Write out all given values and metrics provided by the question. Define any symbols and variables clearly.

Draw diagrams if applicable. It will only help you visualize things better (especially in physics & Networks).

If you’re able to break up, write down, and organize your given information, you'll be less worried about missing something & will be more confident to know all your tools.

Practicing like this is also helpful because it can help you express your thought process so you can get more useful help quicker whether that be from faculty or peers.

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**Example Question:**
Load A gets 4.0 kVA at 0.8 pf leading. Load B receives 2.4 kVA with 0.6 pf lagging. Box C is an inductive load consuming 1 kW and receiving 500 VAR. Find the current and the power factor of the circuit.

**EV’s:**

\[
\begin{align*}
S_A &= 4000 \text{ VA} \\
pf_A &= 0.8 \text{ (leading)} \\
S_B &= 2400 \text{ VA} \\
pf_B &= 0.6 \text{ (lagging)} \\
P_C &= 1000 \text{ W} \\
Q_C &= 500 \text{ VAR} \\
P &= S \times pf \\
S^2 &= P^2 + Q^2
\end{align*}
\]

**Solution:**

Something something
Many tears and pain
something something

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**USE YOUR TEXTBOOK, EVEN IF PROF SAYS NO NEED**
**STUDY GROUPS**

**PROS**

- You can bounce ideas off of each other to better understand the materials.
- Someone else's strengths may help you cover and address your weaknesses.
- Compare and brainstorm strategies for taking on the exam, such as which material needs more attention.
- Give you a sense of comfort and confidence that you're not alone in this exam!

**CONS**

- Difficult to organize (schedules, study spaces, etc).
- You might not get the attention you need for problems.
- Misinformation might spread. Whether that be about the appropriate material, course policies, etc.
- If misunderstandings occur, it might make you feel helpless or alone and build up stress. It might do the opposite too, make you too feel over-confident and you might miss things!
DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS, NO MATTER HOW SILLY THEY MAY SEEM

Professors won't bite, they love to talk, teach, and answer questions anytime, so take advantage of that.

Your fellow classmates won't judge you either, in fact some might be thinking the same thing, so don't be shy to speak up if you're confused.

Even if it's a really simple or easy to answer question, better to ask and know the answer, than stress yourself out trying to figure it out on your own.

Plus, you're doing it all through Zoom, so the lack of face-to-face makes it less stressful!
Just because someone else in class seems to be doing “better”, doesn’t mean you’re doing something wrong.

Just because someone else is doing worse than you in class, doesn’t mean you’re doing something right either.

That’s not to say you have to go overboard to do well either.

Don’t think about it too much, just do your best and improve where you think there is room to improve!
Nothing ever gets done in a day and a night, EVER!

Cramming does NOT work!
You are given notice for a reason, use that time!

Midterm material is dense, give yourself time to digest all the information!

Give yourself time to get in touch with and ask others like your Professors important questions!

Resting and relaxing is crucial to success during exams!

(Gosh darn it)
Thank you for tuning in today!

If you have any questions, feel free to stick around!

Before you go, please fill out this short feedback survey to let me know how I did & how to improve in the future!

You can always email me at transferengineer@gmail.com

Otherwise, you’re free to go! Stay safe out there!