Database Systems: Administrative Notes

Prof. Dr. Jens Dittrich

1 What is a Flipped Classroom?

This lecture is organized as a *Flipped Classroom* (aka Flip Teaching), i.e. the lecturer does **not** present the teaching content and its associated materials in front of the students in the lecture hall — as it would be the case with a traditional lecture. Instead, we offer learning material for self study. This includes instructional videos (mostly self-produced), slides, electronic quizzes, research papers, and other sources. We expect students to study this material at their own pace and prepare themselves for the weekly meetings (the so-called *LAB*). The LAB happens in the time the traditional lecture would take place (thursdays from 10:15–12:00). Yet, the formerly 4 hours per week (SWS) traditional lecture time is reduced to only 2 SWS LAB time. The purpose of the LAB is to jointly apply the material and *deepen your understanding*. In the LAB we will clarify questions and start working on the weekly assignments in groups of 2–3 students. The professor, the tutor in chief, and several student tutor(s) will help you with that.

Example sequence of events for learning a given topic:

When?	What?
until week N, Wednesday 10:15	*self-paced:* learn the material, solve the quizzes
week N, Wednesday 10:15	*self-paced:* inspect results of the quizzes
week N, Thursday 10:15 – 12:00	*LAB:* start solving weekly assignment sheet with professor's and tutor's help
week N+1, Thursday 10:00	*self-paced:* submit your solution to the assignment sheet electronically
week N+2, Monday&Tuesday	*tutorial:* discuss solutions of assignment sheet

2 Requirements for Passing:

What:	When:	Weight:	To pass:
Quizzes	Every week	none	on average $\geq 60\%$, at most 2 weeks with 0 points
Assignment sheet	Every week	none	on average $\geq 50\%$, at most 2 sheets with 0 points
Programming sheet	Every 1–2 week(s)	30%	on average $\geq 70\%$ at most 1 sheet with 0 points
Midterm	Dec 3, 9:45am	20%	$\geq 70\%$
Final exam	Feb 11, 9:30am	50%	$\geq 50\%$
or: Repetition exam	March 17, 9:30am	50%	$\geq 50\%$

Midterm, Final Exam, Repetition Exam:

(a) 120 minutes each.

(b) The midterm (=examination prerequisite) covers material treated in the lecture until that point in time.

(c) The final exam covers all material treated in this course.

(d) **The final** exam may be repeated at the end of the exam period.

(e) If you fail **the midterm**, you may deregister from the course without losing an exam attempt.

(f) You can take two two-sided physical A4-pages of your personal *handwritten* summary of the lecture content to the midterm and all exams (no print-outs, no assignment sheets, no carbon copies).

3 Learning Resources and Tools:

Book Pre-release: Prof. Dittrich is currently writing a "videobook". This book is an extension of the electronic script we used last year. In that book links to all learning material you need (including learning goals, videos, slides, encyclopedia, and research papers) are provided. In addition, textual summaries of the videos in Q&A-style are provided. As the book is not yet fully finished, this year you will get a **free copy**, i.e. a color printout of the book. Notice that this is copyrighted material and must not be redistributed in any way, thanks! Only few additions to this book will be made throughout the semester (if at all). Feedback and suggestions are welcome!

Moodle:

(1) Log in to Moodle https://islecture.cs.uni-saarland.de (available **starting Oct 23**) using your student account, and check out the calendar to not miss any deadline.

(2) Solve the quizzes on time.
   - (a) Unlimitted attempts before the deadline possible.
   - (b) Only the last attempt counts.
   - (c) No feedback on your results before the deadline.
   - (d) Wrong answers provide negative points (i.e. randomly checked answers do not yield points).

(3) Hand-in your solutions to the assignment sheets.
   - (a) only via Moodle, PDF only, max. 2 MB, scans of hand-writing allowed, yet digital content preferred.
   - (b) At most 3 people may submit together, people coming from different tutorial groups allowed, however they must always submit to the same tutor.

LAB:

(1) Replaces the frontal lecture.

(2) Apply the material you learned, deepen your understanding.

(3) Work in groups of 2 to 3 students, *start solving the weekly assignment sheets.*

(4) Get supervision from the professor and the tutors.

Tutorial:

(1) Choose your preferred tutorial group in Moodle. First come-first served.

(2) Discuss solutions to weekly assignment sheets in more detail.

Stack Overflow-Forum:

(1) Discuss questions in our stack overflow-forum: http://forum.infosys.uni-saarland.de/index.php/dbms15.

(2) Check out this tour: http://stackoverflow.com/tour if you are unfamiliar with Q&A forums.

(3) Contribute: post answers, add comments, vote up or down, accept the best answer!

(4) Don't discuss concrete solutions to Q&As or assignment sheets *before* their deadlines.

Project: In contrast to last year, we do not have a separate project anymore. However, we will integrate programming tasks into some of the weekly exercises. For these programming tasks we may provide interfaces and automated tests (functional and performance). Your test results plus a code inspection by a tutor determine the points for a particular programming task.

4 Fraud / Copy

Any form of fraud will result in grading source and sink with zero points. Any attempt to present work done by others as one's own performance is rated as fraud and may result in the student losing the right to examination concerning this lecture.