

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), a book summarizing and extending the videos, 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 (wednesday 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, *deepen your understanding* and prepare you for the exams. In the LAB we will clarify questions and start working on the weekly *exercises* 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	<i>self-paced</i> : learn the material, solve the quizzes, learn from the quizz answers
week N, Wednesday 10:15 – 10:30	<i>Compulsory Mini-Test</i> : 15 minute test before each <i>LAB</i>
week N, Wednesday 10:30 – 12:00	<i>LAB</i> : start solving weekly exercises with professor's and tutor's help
week N+1, Wednesday 10:00	<i>optional</i> : submit your solution to the exercises electronically
week N+2, Monday & Tuesday	<i>tutorial</i> : discuss solutions of exercises

2 Requirements for Passing:

What:	When:	Compulsary:	Weight:	To pass:
Quizzes	Every week	no	none	none
Exercises	Every week	no	none	none
Mini-Tests (15min)	Every week	yes	-	$\geq 50\%$ on average at most 2 with 0 points
Programming Tasks	Every 3–4 week(s)	yes	30%	on average $\geq 50\%$
Midterm	Dec 7, 9:45am	yes	20%	$\geq 50\%$
Final exam	Feb 8, 9:30am	yes	50%	$\geq 50\%$
or: Repetition exam	March 15, 9:30am		50%	$\geq 50\%$

Midterm, Final Exam, Repetition Exam:

- 120 minutes each.
- The midterm (=examination prerequisite) covers material treated in the lecture until that point in time.
- The final exam covers all material treated in this course.
- The final** exam may be repeated at the end of the exam period.
- If you fail **the midterm**, you may deregister from the course without losing an exam attempt.
- 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 exam question sheets, no carbon copies).

3 Learning Resources and Tools:

Book: Prof. Dittrich recently wrote a “flipped textbook”. 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. You will receive a **free copy** of the book for self-study. 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 26**) using your student account, and check out the calendar to not miss any deadline.
- (2) Solve the quizzes on time to be prepared for the weekly mini test (optional).
- (3) Hand-in your solutions to the exercises (optional). Only via Moodle, PDF only, max. 2 MB, scans of hand-writing allowed, yet digital content preferred.

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 exercises*.
- (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 exercises in more detail.

Stack Overflow-Forum:

- (1) Discuss questions in our stack overflow-forum: <http://forum.infosys.uni-saarland.de>.
- (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 exercise sheets *before* their deadlines.

Programming Tasks: We do not have a full-fledged project anymore. However, there will be three programming tasks. 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.