

## Q & A about the HDFS 311 Midterm Exam

**\*\*\* Important note:** You *must* use Internet Explorer or Safari to take your exam. Firefox will not work with WebAssessor.

### **What is the format of the exam?**

The midterm is worth 50 points. There are 12 multiple choice questions (1 point each) and the rest are short-answer questions that can generally be answered in 1-4 sentences (you don't have to write in complete sentences, though). The questions generally do *not* ask you to provide definitions that you have memorized. Instead, you will be asked to *apply* the information that you have learned so far.

### **How long will the exam take?**

Everyone takes tests at different speeds, so this depends on how fast you are at taking exams. When I have given exams this length in class, most students take around 45 minutes. I am not sure if it will take longer or shorter when you take the test online. The test is set up so that you have **2 hours** to take the exam. This should hopefully be more than enough time for everyone.

### **What will be covered on the exam?**

Information from the Lesson 2-7 commentaries and all of the readings assigned in Lessons 2-7.

### **How should I study for the midterm?**

- At the beginning of each commentary, there are a series of "Lesson objectives." I used these objectives to write the test. To help you, I have put all of the Lesson objectives into one document, and posted it in ANGEL. Remember that the objectives that have a \* by them are partially or completely from the readings.
- Review the answers to all of the Application Activities
- Review all of the "Try-it-yourself" activities and their answers
- You will *not* need to know specific information about each intervention that we have discussed, except for what is given in the Lesson objectives. If I ask for specific details about an intervention, I will provide you with that information right on the exam.

### **What can I use on the exam?**

The exam is closed notes and closed book. You will not need anything for the exam except your computer and webcam (no paper, no pencils/pens, no calculators, no cell phones, etc).

### **The syllabus says that the midterm is partly a practice for the final. What does this mean?**

I view the midterm as a check-in - it helps me to find out whether there are any topics that we need to cover more in depth and it helps you assess your learning in the course so far. Therefore, the midterm is technically optional. However, I *strongly* encourage you to take the midterm. Each instructor tests a

little bit differently, so taking the midterm helps you to become familiar with my exams. In addition, for those of you who are new to taking exams through Kryterion, this gives you a chance to make sure you are comfortable with their system.

If you do not take the midterm, your final exam will be double-counted toward your grade. If you do take the midterm but do not do as well as you hoped, you can replace your midterm score with your final exam score. For example, if you earn a 35/50 (70%) on the midterm and a 44/50 (88%) on the final, I will change your midterm exam score to a 44. This means that you will have 88 out of 100 points for the two exams. Keep in mind, however, that the *final exam is cumulative* – it allows you to demonstrate what you have learned throughout the semester.

### **What happens if I miss the midterm?**

If you are scheduled to take the midterm early in the week and you miss the exam, contact Kryterion *immediately* to reschedule. They require that you schedule the exam at least 48 hours in advance. Unfortunately, if you are scheduled to take the exam on either Thursday or Friday and you miss the exam, you will not be allowed to reschedule (the exam closes on Friday, October 16).

### **Can I take a makeup midterm exam?**

There are *no* make-up midterm exams. If you do not take the midterm, then your final will automatically be double-counted. (See the information above about the midterm being a practice for the final exam).

### **What happens if I have a *technical problem* during the exam?**

If this happens, please call Kryterion. They can be reached at 1-877-313-2008 or 1-602-659-4679 Monday through Friday: 10:00 am - 11:00 pm EST. Although you cannot use telephones or cell phones during your test, you are allowed to call Technical Support if you run into technical problems.

### **What happens if I have a *question about the exam material* during the exam?**

Unlike in a physical classroom, I will not be in the room when you take the exam. Therefore, I cannot answer questions that may come up about the exam material. If you find something confusing, try your best to answer the question. At the end of your response, you can type a note to me about what you found confusing.

Also, in some places, you will be asked to read a brief paragraph and to use that information to answer more than one question. Unfortunately, the questions will only appear one at a time in Kryterion (the information you need to answer the question will remain at the top of the page, though). You can always go back and review (and change) your answers if you need to.

### **What happens if I find a question hard and I want to come back to it later?**

On each question, there is a box that says “Mark this question for later review.” At any point in the exam, you can select the “Review All” button at the bottom of your screen. This will bring up a list of

all of the questions and your responses. Any questions that you marked will have a “\*” by them, so you can remember to go back to them. To go to any question, just click on that item number from the “Review All” screen. This window will also tell you how many questions you still haven’t answered (this is a good place to make sure that you haven’t missed any questions!)

**When I normally take a test, I like to read through all of the questions first before answering them. Can I do this with an online test?**

One good test-taking strategy is to look over the test before you begin. I always find it helpful to find a question that I am confident about, and start by answering that question. (It makes me feel less anxious as I take the exam). This is a bit harder to do when you only see one question at a time on Kryterion. However, feel free to scan each question by using the “Next” button. You can always go back to the rest of the questions later. If you do skip around, though, make sure that you have answered all of the questions by looking at the “Review All” page!

**Are the two reading quizzes that we took on ANGEL similar to the midterm?**

Because the reading quizzes were open notes, they were designed to be harder than the midterm exam. The midterm asks you to *apply* information that you have learned about all semester, rather than specific questions about the details in the reading assignments or commentaries. The midterm will have questions that are more like the “Try-it-yourself” activities and the Application Activities.