

CSE 331

Software Design and Implementation

Test Taking Strategy

Zach Tatlock / Winter 2016

Testing

Goal: measure your knowledge of the material

Inevitably also measures test-taking ability

Every quarter students who **know the material really well** do poorly on tests

Why?

Key skill: test taking

Don't get stuck on any one problem.

Don't spend time on problems worth few points.

Scan entire test first to see what you're up against.

Don't leave anything blank!!! Can't give partial credit to a blank space!

My tests

Historically my tests have been had much lower medians than other instructors.

That is OK! We will interpret grades relative to the performance of the entire class.

Repeat: it is OK not to get a 90% on a test. All depends on median.

My expected median: 80%-ish (have had 70%)

Take-away on testing

Work hard. If you know the material and take the test strategically, you'll be fine.

Chill out. We're here to learn. I'm not out to get you, it's not a battle.

Have fun! This material is super important and pretty deep. Enjoy the process of expanding your mind.