

CSE 390B, Winter 2023

Building Academic Success Through Bottom-Up Computing

# Midterm & Exam Reflection

CSE 390B Midterm, Midterm Debrief and Discussion

# Test-taking Strategies

- ❖ Survey the entire exam before beginning
  - Helps plan how much time to allocate for each problem
- ❖ Read exam directions and question statements carefully
  - Use **highlights**, underlines, circles on important details
- ❖ Answer the questions you feel the most confident in first
- ❖ If stuck on a problem, make a mark on the problem and revisit the question later

# Test-taking Strategies

- ❖ Prioritize how you will answer questions
  - Do this based on confidence level for each type of question or how long you think each will take
- ❖ Rely on a methodological approach for each question
  - Helps make taking the test feel more systematic
- ❖ If stuck on a question, demonstrate what you know
  - Many exams reward partial credit
- ❖ If time allows, double check your answers
  - Catches any small mistakes that may have been made earlier

# Technical Details for Midterm

- ❖ You may specify Boolean operations using symbols or words
  - E.g., for the And gate, you may use the symbol & or “And”
  - ^ is the symbol for XOR
  - If you use different symbols, explicitly specify what they mean
- ❖ When using a Mux or DMux gate, explicitly show or describe the select bits that the inputs are connected to
  - E.g., the a input of the Mux is connected to the select bit of 0
- ❖ We will show any additional clarifications on the board

# CSE 390B Midterm Instructions

- ❖ This exam is closed-note, closed-software
  - You may only use the midterm reference sheet
- ❖ You will have 60 minutes to complete the exam
  - We will give you a 30-minute, 10-minute, and 5-minute warning
- ❖ If you have a question, please raise your hand and the course staff will get to you shortly
- ❖ When you are finished, please hand your exam to the course staff

# CSE 390B Midterm

❖ The exam will end at:

Midterm clarifications:

# Congrats! You did it!



# Midterm Reflections

- ❖ Exams are not an objective measure of your learning or abilities
  - They are one type of evaluation and favor certain learning styles
  - They reflect priorities of instructor and are one view of material
  - Performance on an exam doesn't determine your capability
- ❖ Our goal is to help you improve your skills related to preparing, taking, and reflecting on exams
- ❖ You may submit midterm corrections in Project 7 and earn back up to 50% of the points you lost

# CSE 390B Midterm Debrief

Discuss the following reflection questions in groups:

- ❖ How did the midterm go? Were you able to apply the metacognitive strategies you've learned to this exam?
- ❖ How did you prepare for this midterm? What aspects of your preparation were most effective for the midterm?
- ❖ What test-taking strategies did you utilize during the exam? Which ones were most helpful for the midterm?

# Post-Lecture 13 Reminders

- ❖ Up next in CSE 390B: The Assembler and Compiler!
- ❖ Project 6: Mock Exam Problem & Building a Computer due next Thursday (2/16) at 11:59pm