COVID-19 note: Course assessment for Spring 2020 semester   **6 April 2020**

The academics this semester saw an upheaval due to COVID-19 pandemic. As we were completing nearly 60 to 70% of the semester, all classes were suspended on 14[th]March 2020 and students were asked to leave the campus and return home. After a week's gap, classes resumed in the online mode largely using Microsoft's Teams on March 23rd.

Majority of the online classes were recorded so that students who had intermittent connectivity can access them later. The nationwide lockdown posed a challenge to some students with poor/no connectivity as they were unable to explore options like going to an Internet Café to attend the classes or download the recordings. Ability to connect to course pages on Moodle seemed less problematic for students. It is also recognized that in general, there is a large variation in the conditions under which students are participating in academics, in general, from their homes.

The situation in the country is fast changing and there is no basis to predict when normal movements will be allowed through the country. It is also highly risky to bring people from all over the country to a campus hostel before all regions are declared safe.The chance of delay in admissions for Monsoon 2020 is very high, given the postponement ofmany board and entrance exams.We do not wish to disrupt the academics of existing students (especially, the graduating ones) to the extent possible. Hence, the option of having students return to campus (anytime soon) to complete the semester is closed.

All these were taken into account and a policy has been formulated to address the course assessment issue. The intent is to be compassionate and generous to the students, given the trauma everyone is undergoing. We have also been watching how universities across the world are handling the unusual situation.

The following are the key points in the policy applicable only for the currently ongoing courses of Spring 2020. The FAQ at the end may answer some specific doubts.

1. There will be **no formal 3-hour written exam** conducted over online or on campus to end the semester.This will be partly/fully replaced by i) activities which can be done over an extended time (ex. assignments, projects, reports, papers); ii)short quizzes on Moodle or iii) short viva.
2. Assessment schemes for full courses willhave more weight for the components completed on or before classes were suspended. This is to be fair to students who couldn't participate fully in online classes.
3. Attendance **will not be considered** for the courses that are currently underway in S'2020.
4. No **F** grade will be awarded for any course. It will be replaced by a **W** (withdraw) grade in the transcript in view of the trying circumstances under which a student has completed the course.
5. **Students are given more flexibility.**
   a. *In grading*. Grades will be awardedfor all full courses in a coarse range: A,B,C and W. No A-, B-, or C- grades will be awarded. After grades are declared, a student can choose to opt for a Pass grade in place of the A,B, or C grades. This can be done for every full course. This will appear as P* in thetranscript to indicate the course was not a Pass/Fail course.
   b. *In assessment*. Students with no or very poor connectivity can ask for exemption from normal assessment process and request an alternate assessment in a course. This option can be availed by sending an application to the academic office (on the IMS portal) and is subject to approval. Details on the application process will be communicated shortly by the academic office.

6. Half courses offered in the second half of Spring 2020 have been primarily conducted in an online mode. Hence, grading for such courses will be based on one of 2 schemes: P/W or A,B,C, W. The course faculty will determine the scheme they will adopt and announce the same to the class.

7. SAVE credits:
   a. Students will have to complete the VE credits by doing the assignments given in lieu of classes.
   b. Students will have to complete Sports and Arts credits by returning to the campus two weeks prior to the start of the next academic year.

8. Courses with lab components:
   a. There will be no lab exam in Analog Electronic Circuits. Assessment will be based on the theory and experiments (done in the physical lab and currently being done as simulations). The revised assessment scheme will be announced by the faculty.
   b. Data structures and algorithmscourse will be completed (including the lab part) by end of April.
   c. Students enrolled in courses such as Introduction to Intro to IoT, Electronic workshop 2 and Science lab 2 may have to complete the lab section by returning to the campus two weeks prior to the start of the next academic year. Detailed instructions will be communicated by the course faculty.

Revised almanac for Spring 2020
Online classes will continue until 18 April
Project evaluations, quizzes and other assessments: 20 – 27th April
Grades are due on 9 May
Project and Independent study report submission deadline: 27 May
Projectand Independentstudy grades are due on 30 May
Monsoon semester classes start on2 August 2020 (as announced earlier)

FAQ on the modified grading policy

1. What will be the points assigned to grades inthe new grading scheme?

   There is no change in the points earned. A = 10, B = 8 and C = 6.

2. How can I opt for P/W grades?

   This is applicable to **only** full courses. Students will be given an option in IMS after the course grades (A,B,C, W) are released. You can choose this option for as many courses as you wish.If you opt for the P/W option, the academic office will replace A,B, or C grades witha P grade. Your SGPA and CGPA will be calculated after this exercise.

3. Will this new grading policy apply to half-courses taken in the first half of the semester?

   Those courses have been completed and hence are not affected by the new policy. Normal grading scheme (A,A-, etc) will be applied for them.

4. How is SGPA / CGPA calculated for P/W grades?

   Existing rules apply. See:
   http://intranet.iiit.ac.in/offices/static/files/GeneralAcademicGuidelies_UG_PG.pdf

   Specifically, P and W grades do not carry points and are not used in the computation of S/CGPA.
   If P grade is obtained, that course will count towards credit requirements.

5. I opted for the RSAO option at the beginning of this semester in some courses. How will my grade be decided?

   Since attendance is not considered for any student this semester, you will be treated the same as any student and the stated new policy will be applicable.

6. Will the W grade appear on my transcript?

   Yes, it will appear on the transcript.

7. Do I have to repeat a course in which I get a W grade?

   Yes, if the course was a core course. If this was a course of say n credits, in the elective category, you can choose another qualifying elective to earn the n credits in the following or later semester.

8. What about the semester/digital humanities/honors projects or Independent study?

   No change in assessment rules. Please get in touch with your supervisor to review your goals/deliverables for the completion deadline which is 27 May. Grades are due on 30 May.

9. Are there any changes in BTP assessment process?
   Assessment for BTP is unchanged and will be as normal with full range of letter grades (A, A- , etc.). The only change is that your supervisor will largely decide the grade as panel involvement in the current condition is difficult. Contact your supervisor and review the stated goals/deliverables. The deadline for your deliverables is 27 May. Grades are due on 30 May.