CSCE 520 – Spring 2008
First Midterm Examination Study Guide

The first midterm examination for CSCE 520 will be given on Tuesday, February 26. It will be closed book and notes.

Topics to be covered are listed below:

Chapter 1: The Worlds of Database Systems

Types of questions to expect: Distinguishing DB vs. DBMS. Explaining basic DBMS components.

Skip for now: Transactions/ACID (Section 1.2.4).

Chapter 2: Relational Database Modeling

Types of questions to expect: Defining basic relational terms. Specifying schemas. Creating tables. Writing relational algebra queries. Specifying keys; Identifying differences between SQL systems and relational systems. Explaining referential and entity integrity.

Chapter 4: High-Level Database Models

Types of questions to expect: Constructing an E/R diagram. Converting an E/R diagram to a relational schema.

Skip for now: ODL. UML (Sections 4.7-4.10).

Chapter 5: Relational Database Programming

Types of questions to expect: Writing relational algebra queries using extended operators.

Skip for now: Datalog (Sections 5.3, 5.4)

Chapter 6: The Database Language SQL

Types of questions to expect: Writing SQL queries. Handling NULLs. Comparing SQL and relational algebra.

Skip for now: Transactions (Section 6.6).