

Hi everyone,

I received few notes this week. I presume most students wanted to use the time to learn or work a problem. Most were positive and indicate that students are exploring ways for them to learn their best. This was clearly demonstrated when I questioned the two classes about what I should do about low attendance in the classes (between 5 and 10 people missing from the class of 50). I suggested quizzes or collecting class work – which would have raised the grades of the students attending class. The clear response you gave me was “no, we’ll just learn more this way.” ... but there was another message that I drew from this: “I just want to learn best I can – don’t saddle me with some point incentives” ... and “they’re doing what they find best for them, I’m doing what I find best for me.”

A number of students indicated interest to have problem sets posted earlier – before Wednesday at midnight. To this, I respond that the problem sets unofficially posted on Mondays did not change, but I just added a question once. So, I encourage you to start the unofficial problem set to learn the new rotational stuff as soon as you can. I have posted 4 questions this morning for PS #7. I may provide additional guidance or add a question, but it’s very unlikely that I’ll remove or significantly change these questions.

There was one lone declaration, “I’m not learning” with nothing else. It felt kind of helpless to me and also left me kind of helpless to respond in anyway. Regardless of your situation, I would always ask you, “what do you want to do?” You can withdraw from the class, but I see 100 students in my two classes all doing something to answer this question. Regardless of your situation, I encourage you to examine your options, and then take the action that you find most compelling.