Organization and Policies

Assignments
- There are five homework sets; all weighted equally. There is no midterm and no final. The total credit of the five homework sets is 94 points.
- There are 5 in-class pop quizzes, for a total credit of 2 points.
- There are two essays for 3 points each.
- A selected set of students is given the opportunity to present their essay in class for a credit of 3 points.

Final Grade
The final grade is calculated based on the grades of the homework sets (94 points) and the additional credit related to the essays, quizzes and presentations (11 points). To be eligible to receive the additional credit, a student has to fully attend at least 16 lectures, including, 14 or more lectures during the first 9 weeks of the term and the two lectures during the last week of the term. The numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

- 96-105 = A+
- 86-95 = A
- 76-85 = B
- 66-75 = C
- < 66 = F

Collaboration and Open-Book Policy
Collaboration, in the sense of discussing how to solve the homework problems, is allowed on some, but not all, homework problems. Every homework problem includes a specific statement whether collaboration is allowed or not. For all homeworks:
- Write the final solutions on your own and understand them fully.
- Books, papers and notes can be consulted, but not copied from.
- The use of solutions from previous years is not allowed.

Homeworks Policy
- Homeworks are to be submitted in class and are due at the start of class on the due date.
- Homeworks are returned in class. Keep your graded sets until you get the final grade. That’s your record, we have our record.
- Late homeworks lose 20% of their value immediately and lose 100% of their value a week after the due date (except in institute-established cases of illness or emergency).
- A late homework submission should include only solutions to problems that were not attempted in the previous (on-time) submission.
- We are human... and occasionally make mistakes in grading. Corrections of grades can be requested only within a week from the time the graded homeworks were returned.

References
There is no required textbook for the course. There are a number of books on reserve at the SFL library. Lecture slides, handouts and relevant publications are available on the class web site.