You can access recitation section gradesheets at www.campus.mst.edu/physics/courses/23/grades/ to see your status in the class. These spreadsheets are ACTIVE so you can enter various hypothetical scores for your End-Material Minitest (EM) and Final Exam (FE). This will help you determine your plans for Finals Week. Here is some information to help guide you.

The course policy for the contribution $\Sigma T$ of all tests (column F, labeled Tests) is:

$$
\Sigma T = [T_1 + T_2 + T_3 + FE] – \min(T_1, T_2, T_3, FE) + EM + \max(BM, EM)
$$

where BM is your score on the Basic Math MiniTest.

The web-accessible gradesheets will be updated on Thursday afternoon of the last week of class. When the update occurs, the number 1000 (total number of course points) appears in cell B2. After the update, look at the row associated with your course Personal Identification Number and go to the cell under the column marked Total (column B). This is the total number of points you have accumulated in the course. This value assumes you have zeroes for the Final Exam and for the End Material MiniTest – because you have not yet taken them. It is the official sum of your current scores, and correctly drops your lowest quiz, homework, boardwork, and test as per course policy. (Remember it assumes a zero on your Final Exam, making it the score dropped). Check to see if your lab scores are all correctly entered; contact your recitation instructor ASAP if they are not.

The next column to the right gives the percentage of points out of the total possible in the course, while the next column (column D, labeled Grad Lett) shows the letter grade you will receive if you do nothing else (i.e., skip the EM and FE). Your course grade cannot go lower than this whether you take the EM and/or FE or not and whatever you get on them if you do.

However, it will almost always benefit you to take the End-Material Minitest and often benefit you to take the Final Exam. To see the effect of just taking the End-Material MiniTest, enter a score (in multiples of 10 points) into the cell in your row under the column labeled EM (column M). You will see how your total points and grade will change if you get that score on the End-Material MiniTest, but do not take the Final Exam portion. You can see that there is a distinct advantage to studying for the EM because it replaces your BM score if it is higher through the term $\max(BM, EM)$. If you do attain your estimated EM score but do not take the Final Exam, your total points under the TOTAL column and your grade under the Grad Lett column indicates what course grade you would receive and cannot be lowered by taking the Final Exam.

You may wish to try to improve your total number of points by also taking the Final Exam. Enter various possible Final Exam scores (in multiples of 10 points) in the cell under the column labeled “Final Ex” (column N) to see how your total points can change. Remember, your Final Exam score must be greater than your lowest regular hour-test score to have an impact.

Play around with various combinations of EM and FE scores to see how they affect your total points and course grade. If you wish to do this before the Thursday update, you can get an UNOFFICIAL picture of your current situation by entering the numeral 2 in cell D2 (below words Grade Lett), which turns on all drop-one-item policies and forces 1000 total course points in cell B2.

I wish you good fortune during Finals Week.