

MAT-195 Spring 2020

2nd Half Policies

My Philosophy

MAT-195, as its learning goals state, should " ...give you an introduction to the academic subject of mathematics. By the end of the semester, students should be comfortable reading, writing, and discussing mathematics aimed at a general audience." In our first 8 weeks of the class, we've gone a long way toward those goals but we do still have a few more topics to cover to give you a fuller sense of mathematics: numbers as information, using math to correct errors, voting, and we'll wrap up with a nice liberal arts connections between math and english and history.

Having the self motivation and discipline to work independently from home is very difficult for humans when conditions are good, let alone when the world around you is pretty much a dumpster fire. Most of us will likely be craving structure in our lives and clear goals we can work towards. I will, therefore, continue to set explicit deadlines for each homework, require participation, and enforce homework deadlines. I anticipate this will be beneficial for almost all of you.

That being said, these are very strange and difficult times. If anything comes up which makes it hard for you to keep up with the work in this class (e.g., illness, travel home, or family obligations), let me know and I can work with you to make another plan.

We are all going to have to deal with unexpected interruptions, technology not working right, and just generally bad days. **It's imperative that you keep up good communication with me if you run into issues or have questions.**

One note on the S/D/F option. Generally, I see no down side to choosing this option if you would like to remove a bit of stress from your life. That said, there is no way to "sort of" learn math. You will still need to put in the time to keep up with the class content. Please do not become complacent.

Basic Structure

I have roughly split the content for the rest of the semester into two sessions per week. We will have classes on WebEx (see Technology section) on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3 PM Grinnell time (our regularly scheduled class time) or from 7:30-8:30 PM. You should just pick one time each day to attend. You're welcome to vary which one you attend week to week (even class to class). Based on your self reported schedules, you all should be able to attend at least one session. See the "Grade" section for the attendance policy.

Because our course is not about memorizing math formulas or deeply understanding one topic, I will not be producing videos with content for you to watch. We will instead have twice a week meetings which will mimic our class time as best we can. I plan to keep the class period feeling roughly like what our classes were like before break. I have a tablet which I can draw on with the screen projected to you through WebEx. So I will be able to draw pictures, show you math manipulations, etc.

Office Hours

I will not have official "office hours" for this class as you didn't come to many (maybe any?) during the first half of the semester. I am more than happy to talk with you about content outside class, but we'll schedule meetings on a case-by-case basis. Just email me and we will set up a time to talk one-on-one (or in a small group) on WebEx.

Grading

There are a few changes to how grading will be conducted for the rest of the semester.

PARTICIPATION

Participation will still be worth 30% of your grade. Almost all of you had some sort of mic you can use to talk. If needed, you can type in a chat window in WebEx.

HOMEWORK

Homeworks will still be due on PWeb many Fridays by 7 PM Grinnell time (UTC-5) and is still worth 40% of your grade. Handwritten assignments will need to be scanned in **black and white** (unless the color is important for me to see) and **into one .pdf file** and then submit it via PWeb. See the "Technology" section below for information. Do not take pictures of the homework and email those. Picture photos tend to be very large and harder for me to annotate.

I will return graded HW to you on PWeb just as I've done so far. I will likely not check email after 5 PM on Fridays so make sure to email me earlier with questions you have.

PROJECTS

There will be a second project and you will do a short explanation to the class. However, since none of you have started to work on the project yet, I am going to rearrange the groups a bit, and I will clarify what "presentation to the class" means in our now online learning environment. More to come about this project soon. Each project will now be 15% of your grade, instead of 10% originally stated in the syllabus.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance policy (see class syllabus) will still be in effect. I will not start over counting missed classes so, for example, if you have already missed 2 classes, you have 2 more to miss before your final letter grade incurs a penalty. That being said, see the first section of this document. If something serious happens which prevents you from being able to regularly attend class sections, be sure to communicate with me about that.

Technology

I will be regularly checking email 7:30 AM -7:30 PM Grinnell time on weekdays and a bit on the weekend. Don't hesitate to email me with questions or issues you run into.

Otherwise, there are two basic types of technology you may need for the class.

WEBEX

I will use this program to hold class sessions and office hours. There is an app for desktops and phones/tablets which I recommend you download. You will get an invitation for all the class sessions with a link (there will be a password associated with those sessions) and there will be a URL posted on PWeb which you can use for other meetings with me. Please wear headphones if at all possible to avoid nasty feedback loops on the audio.

A note on recordings. There are screen record options with WebEx. I don't generally plan to use it, but there could be occasions where I start talking about something and decide it is worth recording my explanation for other students. I will do my best to let you know the session is being recorded if that happens.

SCANNING

If you want to submit handwritten homework, you will have you will have to scan your homeworks as a pdf and submit them on PWeb.

If you have an iPhone or iPad you can scan using the "Notes" app. Click on "Notes", open a new note, click on the camera icon at the bottom. Then click "Scan Documents", unless you have colors which are important for me to see, make sure you are on "Black and White" option at the top, and hit the white button. You will then get a box you can move around to crop the picture to the right size. If you're happy with it, save it and then take the next page. When you're done, you can click on the "Share" button and email it to yourself, or Air Drop or however you want to share it.

If you have an android phone, there is an app called "CamScanner" which has been recommended by several students. You should be able to use the free version and not have to pay for a subscription: <https://tinyurl.com/quwbfhr>. **Don't forget, black and white (unless the color is important), and one page for the whole document.**