

Math 203 – Section 010
2:00 - 3:15 TR
MABL 234
Spring Semester 2005

Instructor: Dr. Jon-Lark Kim

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Office Hours: 3:30-5:00PM TR, or by appointment

Text: *For All Practical Purposes* by COMAP (sixth Edition)

You will need a calculator with a square root key on it.

This is a course in thinking and attitude, not mechanical mathematical skills. While we will learn specific mathematics, our goals are not to learn skills as in, e.g., algebra or calculus courses, but rather:

- to work hard, learn, and have fun learning
- to develop problem solving skills and skills at logical thinking
- to better appreciate and enjoy math
- to see math in the real world and appreciate it in that context, and
- to develop writing skills, especially in the context of the math that we are learning

In short, the purpose of this course is to show you what real-life mathematics is about and allow you to appreciate it. Many people believe math is merely a system of techniques and routines useful for solving messy algebraic equations. If you feel this way, I hope this class changes your mind. I believe you will find much of what we do in this class is interesting, relevant, different from math you have experienced before, and most of all fun!

Exams and Quizzes

There will be 2 exams and 4 quizzes. There will not be a final exam. Each of the two exams will be worth 100 points, and will have a written portion and a computer portion. The written portion will be given in class, and you will go to a computer lab (more details will be given on this later) to take the untimed computer portion. You will have seven work-days in which to take the computer exam, and you may take it at most once per day during that period. Only your best score will count.

All quizzes will occur during the last third of the semester. Like the written portion of the exams, they will be given in class and will last about 30 minutes. Together, the quizzes are worth 100 points.

Writing

This course is designed to meet Integrated Studies requirements. Part of those requirements include having student writing which is commented on by the instructor as a significant component of the course. There are two types of writing assignments for this course: projects and focused journals.

There will be one project during the semester, worth 150 points. Specific guidelines for the project will be handed out well in advance of the due date. Late papers (regardless of reason) will be penalized, and excessively late papers will not be accepted. Projects will be graded on the basis of writing ability and style, as well as content.

Because writing about mathematics is different than what you are used to, and because I want you to do well in this course, you may choose to turn in a preliminary draft of your project. You may do this any time up to two class periods before the project is due. I will return the preliminary draft to you with comments (but no grade) the class period after you turn it in to me, so that you can make revisions before the actual due date.

There will be about 5 focused journal assignments (written assignments) during the course, worth 10 points each. You will be given a specific question to answer for your journal assignment, but in addition, you may also write about anything else you wish to tell me. With few exceptions, possible grades for journal

assignments are 0, 7, or 10 points. You will receive 0 points if you do not meet the assignment requirements. You will receive 7 points if you meet the assignment requirements, but make significant errors in content, grammar, spelling, or the like. If you meet the assignment requirements and make no significant errors, you will receive the full 10 points.

Homework

We all learn by doing, so homework will be assigned almost every day, but will not be collected and will not count towards your grade. The beginning of most class periods will be spent going over homework, with students presenting their solutions on the board. You are expected to participate in this.

Attendance

Attending class is very important in this course. I will check attendance irregularly. Missing at most two classes will give you 25 points as a bonus, and no points are given otherwise.

Grades

The course grade will be computed as follows:

The scale will no harsher than:

		Total Number of Points	Minimum Final Grade
Exam 1 – Written Portion	50 points		
Exam 1 – Computer Portion	50 points	465 or higher	A
Exam 2 – Written Portion	50 points	440 - 464	B+
Exam 2 – Computer Portion	50 points	415 - 439	B
Quizzes (25 points each)	100 points	390 - 414	C+
Project	150 points	365 - 389	C
Journals	50 points	340 - 364	D+
Total	500 points	315 - 339	D
Attendance (bonus)	25 points	314 or lower	F

Departmental Grading Appeals Policy: Students who believe their academic evaluation has been prejudiced or capricious have recourse for appeals to (in order) the instructor, the departmental chair, the departmental appeals committee, and the college appeals committee.