

GROUND RULES for MA 154X

• CLASS PERIOD

Students are expected to attend every class meeting and to read the appropriate sections of the text before coming to class. Instructors may not have time to cover every topic in class.

• HOMEWORK

It is important to do all the homework on the assignment sheet to be sure you have covered all the material that will be on the final.

• QUIZZES AND EXAMS

—The quizzes given during the semester will be prepared by your instructor.

—Three midterm exams will be scheduled for your class by your instructor **during your regular class meetings**. The three midterm exams and the final exam are prepared by the Mathematics Department.

—**MAKE SURE YOU BRING YOUR SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR TO THE EXAMS.**

—Make-up exams will be given if there is a valid reason for missing an exam.

—The final is a 30-question multiple choice exam that is given during the sixteenth week of the semester. Students may get a copy of practice questions for the final online.

To prepare for the midterm exams, students should review all of the material covered by their homework assignments, quizzes and the announced review problems. Past exams (available online) are a source of additional review problems and can also give students a rough idea of the length and difficulty level of their own exams. **However, many students have the mistaken impression that just by reviewing some past exams they will have seen all that is expected of them for their own exams.** Past exams should absolutely not be used as a guide to the exact content and wording of the exams.

• GRADES

Quizzes are worth 100 points, each evening exam is worth 100 points, and the final is worth 200 points. At the end of the semester, each student's final grade is calculated using his/her *total points*. The final grades are calculated as follows: The total points for all your instructor's students are listed in numerical order, highest first. Then, your instructor uses the four common exams to determine cut-offs for letter grades as follows: if ten of your instructor's students receive an A on the common exams, (approximately) the first 10 students on the list of total scores will receive an A as final grade in the course, and so on down the list for the other grades. However, those students who do not have grades on all 4 exams are not included in the preceding list. Students one or two points (from the 600-point total available for the course) below a grade cut-off will automatically be given the higher grade. Other students who are within ten points of a grade cut-off are considered borderline cases. If the grade obtained in the final exam is at least as good as the higher one in the borderline, the final grade will be raised; **otherwise it will not.**

• COURSE WEB PAGE

Some materials for the course are available online at

<http://www.math.purdue.edu/MA154>

(This is the web page for MA 154, which has the identical content as your course but meets three times a week on the main campus.)

• CHEATING

The Mathematics Department will not tolerate cheating of any sort. Grade penalties will always be imposed by the Department. All cheating cases will also be reported to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action (probation, suspension, or expulsion).