

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 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 TAKE 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

At the end of the semester in each class, each instructor gives approximately the same number of A's, B's, C's, D's, and F's in his/her class as his/her students receive on the final. (To prepare the final letter grades, the total points for each student are listed in numerical order, highest first. Then, for example, if ten students in the class receive an A on the final, approximately, the first 10 students on the list will receive an A in the course and so on down the list for the other grades.) This is done to ensure the best possible fairness in making scores from any one section of the course (be it daytime or evening) comparable to the others on the basis of the common exam.

Homeworks and quizzes combined 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 to four 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 useful materials for the course are available online at

<http://www.math.purdue.edu/courses/ma154>

• 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).