

EXPECTATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

STUDENTS SHOULD SPEND A MINIMUM OF 10 HOURS OF COURSE WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS PER WEEK

5 CREDITS IS ABOUT 1/3 OF YOUR SEMESTER'S COURSE WORK, WE EXPECT 5 CREDITS WORTH OF EFFORT.

YOU MUST DEVELOP SELF-DISCIPLINE SINCE NOT ALL OF THE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE GRADED.

Quizzes and Exams will emphasize the concepts and types of problems done in lectures as well as the material and concepts found in the homework problems. Be in the habit of coming to lecture every time. If you miss lectures you will miss concepts and types of problems that will appear on exams and quizzes. Again, consistent self-discipline is required.

Quizzes are worth 100 points at the end of the semester, which is the equivalent of a midterm exam, so coming to the recitations regularly is also very important.

Use the Math 205 Help Room. It is manned:

MWThF from 10:30 until 5:30

Tu 8:30 to 12:30 and 3:30 to 5:30

WEB PAGE: ...math.purdue.edu/MA 159 or go to www.math.purdue.edu and then click on 'Academic Programs', 'Mathematics Courses' and then 'MA 159'.

Fear is the mind-killer. I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear. I will permit it to pass over me and through me. And when it gone past I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where fear has gone there will be only nothing. Only I will remain.

--- Frank Herbert

SOME WARNING SIGNS OF POTENTIAL DIFFICULTY:

You did not take a significant math course your senior year.

You are not self-motivated.

Quizzes – scoring way below average (less than 5 out of 20 points) on the first few quizzes is another possible indicator that you may be in the wrong course.

NOTE: If you choose to drop back to MA 153 which leads into MA 154, they use the same book, but move through the material more slowly (3 class meetings per week), and the difficulty level of the exams is slightly less than for MA 159 (Check the Exam 1 & 2's from Spring 2003 for 159 & 153 for a comparison, which are available on the respective course web pages.)

CHALLENGES

MA 159 is designed specifically to prepare Engineering and Science students for the MA 161, MA 162, MA 261, etc. series of Calculus courses they will need to be successful in. Therefore, this means that an understandably high level of performance is expected in this course. Students who are successful in this course have proven to be very well prepared for Purdue Calculus courses.

Overcoming dependence on calculators and graphing calculators.

NO CALCULATORS UNTIL AFTER EXAM 2 – Why?

...because MA 161, MA 162, and MA 261 do not allow any calculators on their exams. Therefore you must be able to do 5th grade arithmetic without a calculator. For example, adding and dividing fractions must be done frequently. These methods will be used with more abstract algebraic expressions as well. Many of you are so calculator dependent, you will struggle with this. We will obviously not be able to spend lecture time showing more than very brief reminders of 5th grade arithmetic.

The other main difficulty of not having a calculator, and that you must be able to do well, is **graphing any equation or function without a graphing calculator.** We will spend a lot of time on graphing in lectures when we get to Chapter 3 and beyond.

OVERCONFIDENCE

Some students are insulted that they are being asked to take an Algebra Course.

For most of you, your education has been unknowingly a mile wide and an inch deep. Be careful about assuming you already know this material.