

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**

The majority of homework will be graded using the department's online homework system, SAGE. You will receive additional information about this at the second class meeting. Also, see the instructions on the assignment sheet for additional information about homework.

- **QUIZZES AND EXAMS**

The quizzes given during the semester will be prepared by your instructor. Three multiple choice midterm exams are scheduled **during your regular class meetings**. The three midterm exams and the final exam are prepared by the Mathematics Department.

A one-line, scientific calculator is the only calculator allowed on quizzes and exams. Two-line, programmable, and graphing calculators are not allowed.

The final exam 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 exam 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 you a rough idea of the length and difficulty level of your own exam. **However, many students have the mistaken impression that just by reviewing some past exams they will have seen all that is expected of them from their own exams.** Past exams should absolutely not be used as a guide to the exact content and wording of the exams.

- **GRADES**

Quizzes and SAGE are worth 50 points each, 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, the first 10 students on the list of total scores will receive an A as a final grade, and so on down the list for the other grades. Students who do not have scores on all 4 exams are not included in the preceding list. Students zero to four points (from the 600 point total available for the course) below a grade cut-off will automatically be given the higher grade. Students who are five to twelve points below a grade cut-off will be considered borderline cases. If the grade obtained on the final exam or in the four-exam composite 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: www.math.purdue.edu/MA154X

- **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).