

GROUND RULES for MA 153 X

- **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 and online to be sure you have covered all the material that will be on exams. The majority of homework will be done using an online homework system.

- **QUIZZES AND EXAMS**

The quizzes given during the semester will be prepared by your instructor. Three multiple choice 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 ONE- OR TWO-LINE, SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR TO THE EXAMS.**

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

In class work is worth 100 points, online homework is worth 50 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* (650 total points are available). The final grades are calculated as follows: Course wide letter grade cut-offs are determined for the four common exams combined (500 possible points). Then, your instructor determines the number of each letter grade his students as a group earned, based on the individual totals of the four exam scores. Next, he/she lists all of his students' total points (out of the 650 total points available), in numerical order, highest first. If ten of his students receive an A according to the four-exam cut-offs, the first 10 students on the list of total points will receive an A as their final grade in the course, and so on down the list for the other grades. Students 0 to 4 points below a grade cut-off (based on the 650 total points available) will automatically be raised to the higher grade (for example, a B raised to an A). Students who are 5-12 points below a grade cut-off are automatically raised to the next higher minus grade (for example, B raised to A-). Students who are 13 to 21 points below a grade cut-off will have a plus added to their grade (for example, a B to a B+). NOTE: There is no F+ grade, so only students 5-12 points below the D cutoff will receive a D- and all others remain an F.

- **COURSE WEB PAGE**

Some useful materials for the course are available online at

<http://www.math.purdue.edu/academic/courses/MA15300X/>

- **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).

- **POSSIBLE CAMPUS EMERGENCIES**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, exam dates, deadlines, and grading procedures are subject to change due to a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Visit the course webpage at <http://www.math.purdue.edu/academic/courses/MA15300X/> or contact Joe Chen if you have questions (MATH 810, chenjk@purdue.edu, (765) 494-7920).