

NOVEMBER 29

Hi,

**I strongly suggest you take the time to read this email carefully, maybe save it for reference too.

**NOTE: MAKE A PLAN FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS

***NOTE: The Final Exam building&room(s) will be different than for Exams 1,2,&3. I will send you specific room information next week so you know where to go. Also, pay close attention to the room information in Lectures, in TuTh Recitations and eventually on the MA15900 webpage.

****FINAL Exam MA15900

****Monday, December 13

**** 8:00 AM (2 hour exam), in the early morning

****Location: To be announced

YOU CAN GET YOUR ENTIRE FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE THROUGH MYPURDUE

The Final Exam is worth 200 points, so there is indeed still a lot of opportunity to improve your grade significantly. Or if you slack off, and I really hate to say it, but I must warn you that you can severely damage your grade if you do poorly on the comprehensive Final Exam.

**NOTE: Again, doing very well on the Final Exam can improve your grade quite a bit. Quite a bit? About a Full letter grade up or down, or perhaps even slightly more is quite possible.

**The Final Exam is comprehensive. A lot of students are asking about whether there is an emphasis on the Final Exam of the material covered since Exam 3. The short answer is yes, some for sure. Slightly more than one third of the Final Exam will cover the topics from when we started trigonometry in section 6.1 to the end of the semester, so there is an emphasis on the later and latest material covered in the course. So, indeed try to learn as much of the current material as you can.

**NOTE: The final exam is comprehensive and will cover types of problems and concepts from the entire semester.

I strongly suggest that you start studying soon. Use the "Assignment Sheet" from the webpage as a guide. Work the assignment sheet problems and odd-numbered problems like those problems, so you can check your answers. If you review approximately 2 or 3 sections of the book each day from now until the final exam, that should get you through the massive amount of material and types of problems we have covered this semester.

**On the Final Exam there are 30 multiple-choice questions with only 5 choices for each problem instead of 9. In spite of the increased number of problems, and for various reasons I will not detail, the time pressure on students to finish the exam in the 2 hours allotted is little different than what you have experienced on the midterm exams. The vast majority of students will easily be finished showing me what they know before or even well before the allotted 2 hours is expended.

***CAUTIONARY NOTE: Although there will certainly be some of the hardest types of problems we have done this semester on the Final Exam, the average difficulty level of the individual problems on the Final Exam does tend to be a little bit easier than on most of the other Exams. Therefore, percentage-wise the average students score on the Final Exam

tends to be higher and so the grade cutoffs (lowest score to achieve a given letter grade) tend to be closer to a straight scale on the Final Exam (90%–80%–70%–60%). In other words the curve on the Final will be less generous since the Exam is a little easier. Hopefully, this will give you an idea on what % score to set your goal.

The formulas given on the Final Exam will be the same as those given on Exam 3 plus the 3 double-angle formulas and the 3 half-angle formulas that will be mentioned in the Wednesday, December 1st lecture. These 'Exam/Quiz Formulas' are posted on the MA 159 webpage: www.math.purdue.edu/MA15900

***MY PREPARATION SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FINAL EXAM (prioritized):

1) The homework for the entire semester is your best guide to what could appear on the Final Exam. I would look at every homework problem listed on the assignment sheet (bold and unbold) and start working some of the odd problems near those problems. Most students will not have to work very many of certain types of problems, so based on what you personally know and do not know pick and choose what sections you most need to focus on, but be systematic.

www.math.purdue.edu/MA15900

2) On the web page you will find a set of practice questions for the final exam. These are 66 multiple-choice problems that are good to go through at some point. Try your best to figure out the solutions yourself before checking the answers at the end of the problem set. www.math.purdue.edu/MA15900

3) The old midterm exams on the webpage are also good to practice. **Copies of this semesters exams have been added to the past exams link on the webpage, if you want to rework any of those earlier exams.

www.math.purdue.edu/MA15900

4) Review problems from the book. Most of the review problems at the end of the chapters are applicable and the answers to all of those problems are in the back of the book. Below are listed the specific problems I listed on the exam memos plus a few new problems that cover the material since exam 3.

p.50—12, 15, 19, 20, 22, 30, 31, 35, 38, 41, 45, 47, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68, 75, 77, 79, 85

p.119— 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 41, 42, 47, 50, 53, 55, 61, 63, 67, 68, 71, 74, 75, 85, 90, 91

p.205—1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 41, 42, 46, 49, 51, 53, 54, 57, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 71, 74, 79, 80, 81, 84, 85, 89, 90

p.272— 3, 4, 6, 9, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36, 40, 41, 44, 46, 48, 49

p.342— 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 25, 29, 35, 41, 45, 46, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 67, 75

p.433— 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 18, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 31, 37, 40, 42, 43, 46, 48, 58, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 73, 75

p.496 — 41, 42, 43, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56

p.648 — 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67

p.792 — 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 54, 55, 56, 59, 60

Best,

Owen K. Davis

odavis@math.purdue.edu