

# MA 15300 Fall 2011 Ground Rules

- **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. There are supplemental videos and PowerPoint presentations provided on the MA 15300 webpage, <http://www.math.purdue.edu/academic/courses/MA15300/>

- **HOMEWORK /QUIZZES**

A daily score will be given for almost every class, starting with the third one (Friday, 08/26/11). The daily score will typically be a short, 2-3 question quiz covering the lesson from the previous class. It is important to complete each assignment before the next class to be prepared for these quizzes. Completing each homework assignment is certainly your best way to be prepared for quizzes and exams. **It is highly recommended that you complete all homework problems on paper and then enter solutions online.**

**No make-ups will be allowed for the daily scores or online homework, for any reason.** The four lowest scores for each will not be counted. To have a fifth score (or more) not counted at the end of the semester will require **acceptable written justification.**

- **EXAMS**

There are three multiple-choice, machine-graded evening exams scheduled for your class this semester. The dates are as follows. **(Mark them on your calendar.)**

EXAM 1: Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 8:00 PM, ELLT 116

EXAM 2: Thursday, October 13, 2011, 8:00 PM, ELLT 116

EXAM 3: Tuesday, November 15, 2011, 8:00 PM, ELLT 116

**Missing an Exam:** If you miss an exam for any reason, contact the course coordinator and your instructor immediately. Make-up exams can only be approved **in writing** by the course coordinator, Patrick Devlin (MATH 804, 494-1918, pdevlin@purdue.edu). Make-up exams will be allowed for valid reasons. You must have documentation for missing an exam (you must have a doctor note for illness, for example). For non-valid reasons, a make-up *may* be allowed with a *grade penalty* being deducted from the student's earned score. Not knowing the right date, time or location of an exam is NOT a valid reason for missing it and will thus be imposed by a grade penalty.

**20-Minute Rule:** No one will be allowed to leave the exam site for the first 20 minutes of the exam. After that time, no one will be allowed to enter the exam site and take the exam. Students arriving after 20 minutes will be allowed to take the make-up exam. If they arrived late for a non-valid reason, a grade penalty will be deducted from the make-up exam score.

Make-ups will be given only once for each midterm exam, on the following dates and times:

MAKE-UP EXAM 1: Friday, September 30, 2011, 6:00-7:00 PM, Location TBA

MAKE-UP EXAM 2: Friday, October 21, 2011, 6:00-7:00 PM, Location TBA

MAKE-UP EXAM 3: Friday, November 18, 2011, 6:00-7:00 PM, Location TBA

If you miss an exam and the alternate you will have a score of 0 (zero) recorded for that exam.

For each of these evening exams there will be one class period for which attendance is not required; **however, it will not be cancelled: it will be a no-attendance-required help session for the exam.**

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

The final exam is a 30-question, multiple-choice, machine-graded exam that is given during the sixteenth week of the semester. Students may get a copy of practice questions for the final online.

THE DATE AND TIME OF YOUR MATH FINAL WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER THIS SEMESTER. NO ALTERNATE WILL BE ALLOWED IF YOU PLAN TO LEAVE EARLY. PLAN TO BE ON CAMPUS TO TAKE YOUR FINAL EXAM.

- **CALCULATORS**

A scientific calculator is required for this course. You may only use a one-line scientific calculator on quizzes and exams (the TI-30XA is strongly recommended). No substitutes, such as a graphing calculator, a cell phone, or PDA may be used during quizzes or exams. **WE WILL NOT ALLOW THE SHARING OF CALCULATORS AMONG STUDENTS.**

- **OFFICE HOURS**

Most instructors hold common office hours in MATH 205. After the first week of classes, the office hour schedule will be posted on each instructor's door and students may get a copy online. You are strongly urged to go to someone's office hours if you have questions. It is the best way to get individual help.

## • ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS

Students who have been certified by the Office of the Dean of Students-Adaptive Programs as eligible for **academic adjustments** should go to MATH 242 with a copy of their certification letter and request an Information Sheet for **this** semester that explains how to proceed this semester to get these adjustments made in Mathematics courses. It is not the same as last semester. **This should be done during the first week of classes or as soon as the student receives their letter.**

Only students who have been certified by the ODOS-Adaptive Programs and who have requested ODOS to send their certification letter to their instructor are eligible for academic adjustments. Students who are currently undergoing an evaluation process to determine whether they are eligible for academic adjustments, are encouraged to find out **now** what procedures they will have to follow when they are certified, by requesting the above mentioned Information Sheet from MATH 242.

Large print copies of the Information Sheet are available from MATH 242 upon request.

## • 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/her 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. Exam grades will be available online using a link from the course web page and your career account login. You can obtain your final letter grade by looking in My Purdue. **GRADES CANNOT BE OBTAINED OVER THE TELEPHONE.**

## • SECTION CHANGES AND DROPS

**\*\*First week of the semester:** Go to MyPurdue or see your academic advisor to add the class or change sections.

**\*\*After the first week of classes:** Students make course and section changes by getting a form from their Academic Advisor (or in MATH 804 or MATH 835), getting their Academic Advisor's signature, and getting Patrick Devlin's signature (MATH 804). He has scheduled the following hours to see students concerning course and section changes: M-F 2:30-4:30 PM. The student then returns the form to the Registrar or the Academic Advisor's Office for processing. **Make sure that you are registered in the section you attend. You will have zeros recorded as your quiz and exam grades if you do not.**

If you want to drop a course during the first nine weeks of the semester, Patrick Devlin (MATH 804) can sign your drop form. If he is not available, go to MATH 835. **No section changes or drops**

are allowed after the first nine weeks of the semester; that is after Wednesday, October 26, 2011.

- **CHANGING TO A LOWER MATH COURSE**

Students who do poorly on the first exam are allowed to drop back into a lower level course. THROUGH September 27, WE WILL ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN WITHOUT RESTRICTION. SUCH STUDENTS SHOULD SIMPLY GET THE SIGNATURE FROM THEIR ACADEMIC ADVISOR AND from Charlotte Bailey in MATH 802 (9-10am M-F; 1:30-2:30pm M-W). **After September 27, only under extenuating circumstances will any student be allowed to register for MA 152.** Such students should contact their academic advisors for possible alternatives, including dropping the course.

- **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 [www.math.purdue.edu/MA15300](http://www.math.purdue.edu/MA15300) or contact Patrick Devlin if you have questions (MATH 804), [pdevlin@purdue.edu](mailto:pdevlin@purdue.edu), (765) 494-1918.

- **Course Evaluation**

During the last two weeks of the semester, you will be provided an opportunity to evaluate this course and your instructor. Purdue University has transitioned to online course evaluations. On Monday of the fifteenth week of classes, you will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. You will have two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation in the evaluation is an integral part of this course. Your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University. I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.