

Coordinator: Renee Roames MATH 808 ph: 494-1929 email: [rroames@purdue.edu](mailto:rroames@purdue.edu)  
Course web page: [www.math.purdue.edu/MA13900](http://www.math.purdue.edu/MA13900)

*Welcome to Math 13900.* The goal of this class is to prepare you to be a knowledgeable and confident math teacher in the elementary classroom. We will strive for a deep understanding of the reasoning behind math processes. We will also strive to be able to clearly articulate math ideas using correct vocabulary. You will often be asked to explain your thinking or describe the process you use to solve a problem. Your future students will also need to know more than just how to come up with a number answer. Be prepared to show step-by-step math work and to explain your thinking clearly. Homework papers, quizzes and exams will be graded accordingly.

**Textbook:** We will be using Reconceptualizing Mathematics Part III Custom Edition by Sowder, Sowder, and Nickerson, W.H. Freeman, 2010 because it provides activities, discussion ideas and questions that stimulate a deep level of thinking. It is a workbook that we will follow on a daily basis in class. Reading the section in the text before class is recommended to achieve a high grade in the course. Other materials for class are mentioned on the assignment sheet and will be needed for class activities. We will sometimes use manipulatives to help us understand or demonstrate concepts. People have different learning styles and you may find the manipulatives useful in clarifying ideas. Because it will be important to use them in your teaching for the benefit of your students, you will gain valuable experience using manipulatives in this course.

**Calculators:** Another goal of the Math 13X00 courses is to be competent doing arithmetic of whole numbers, decimals, fractions and percents by hand. To that end, **NO CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED ON QUIZZES AND EXAMS.** Occasionally a calculator will be useful for homework problems or in-class work. There will also be three quizzes given during the semester called "Arithmetic Skills Quizzes." To be prepared for those, a study guide is available on the web page for the course. You will not be using a calculator for those.

**Homework:** Homework is collected every day. You need to be in class for the entire hour to have your assignment graded. If an occasion arises that prevents you from attending class, your homework will be excused up to a total of 4 occurrences. Therefore, neither early nor late homework will be accepted. Homework should be done neatly and with care, all steps must be shown, and multiple pages should be stapled. Correct answers without work or with incorrect work may not receive credit. The instructor will decide which problems or parts of problems will be graded by the grader. Only a few problems on each assignment will be graded. This means that sometimes the problems selected are the ones you have incorrect or they might be ones that you have correct. Homework papers may be collected before or after an opportunity to ask questions on the day it is due. This prevents students from relying too heavily on the question and answer time. Students are encouraged to attend office hours as a way of getting help with assignments.

**Exams:** Exams are intended to cover the ideas from the text but not to mimic the homework questions. Questions may require thinking or problem solving not represented by the homework questions. The three exam dates are Monday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>; and Wednesday Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. Exams are from 8:00 – 9:30 pm in WTHR 172. Put these dates on your calendar. Make-up exams will be given only if you have a valid excuse *with documentation* and the course coordinator has been notified prior to the exam. If you are unable to notify the coordinator prior to the exam, *a valid explanation with documentation for the missed exam must be provided.* Unexcused absence from an exam will result in a grade penalty.

**Quizzes:** A quiz will be given frequently. It is wise to review recent lessons as a way of studying for quizzes. If an occasion arises that prevents you from attending class, your quiz will be excused up to a total of 2 occurrences. Therefore, no make-up quizzes will be given, and quizzes will not be given early. Class participation will count towards one quiz grade. Be prepared to volunteer your ideas during class discussions.

**Attendance:** Illnesses or circumstances that lead to excessive absences should be discussed privately with the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on three evening exams (100 points each), quizzes (100 points), homework (50 points), and a comprehensive final exam (150 points). An instruction sheet for determining your grade is available on the web page. Note that a point on a homework or quiz paper is not equivalent to a point for the course. 360 of the 600 points (60%) is the lowest passing (D) grade.

**Last day to drop** a course: Wednesday, October 24, 2012

**Cell phones:** Checking for messages and sending text messages is not appropriate during class time. Be polite and leave your cell phone alone during that 50 minutes. MP3 players and computers are also not appropriate to use during class.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Information will be available at [www.math.purdue.edu/MA13900](http://www.math.purdue.edu/MA13900)

During the last two weeks of the semester, you will be provided an opportunity to evaluate this course and your instructor. At that time, you will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. Your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue. I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.

#### **FOR STUDENTS CERTIFIED BY ODOS ADAPTIVE PROGRAMS:**

The Department of Mathematics offers alternative testing environments for students who are registered with the Disability Resource Center. Students who need accommodations must deliver a copy of their Accommodation Notification Memorandum to the Undergraduate Services Office (MATH 242) and request an information sheet for their course.

Memorandums should be delivered to the Undergraduate Services Office (MATH 242) within one week of receipt from the Disability Resource Center.

The Information Sheet explains the process for receiving exam accommodations for your mathematics course. Enlarged copies of the information sheets are available upon request. Students currently undergoing evaluation through the Disability Resource Center should also request an information sheet from the Undergraduate Services Office (MATH 242).