

Emergency Measures for MA 166 - Spring 2020

Revised 4/02/2020

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This is the revised version of the document titled “Emergency Measures”, which explains the changes that we make to the structure of the course and the ground rules, according to the actions Purdue University has decided to take in the face of the emergency caused by the COVID-19.

Modifications after the shut-down of the campus on March 25

- **Lecture:** Since the shut-down of the campus on March 25, 2020, the way we deliver the videos has changed.
- **MyLabMath HW:** The students are possibly located in remote places with various time differences. In view of this fact, we delayed the deadline of each assignment of the MyLabMath homework by 1 day. Now the homework assignment is due 1 day after the date of the lecture, which follows the lecture of the corresponding content of the assignment. Several other extensions may be given, trying to adjust to the technical issues that Pearson has been experiencing.
- **Exam 3:** Exam 3 is now scheduled to be conducted on Thursday, April 16. Details of the format, including the study guide and the “Toy” version of Exam 3 to test the system, will be distributed later.

Principle:

- The health and the safety of the students, staff members, and faculty, are the first and most important priority. All the decisions will be made based upon this priority.
- We will make all the course materials available online for MA 166 so that the students who might be in remote locations, domestic or international, will have the full access to the lecture, quiz, homework, exam, and make our best efforts so that the students learn as much as they would under the normal circumstances, and get the appropriate credit for MA 166 without being penalized by the restrictions under the emergency situation.

Lecture:

- Since the shut down of the entire campus, the delivery system of the lectures by Prof. Li and Matsuki has changed. The lectures of Prof. Li are screen recorded by using iPad and they are posted to Blackboard regularly. Matsuki posts his lectures on Mediaspace and the students are informed of the links by e-mail. The contents of the lectures will follow the same schedule as in the announced assignment sheet at the beginning of the semester.
- The student is REQUIRED to watch the video. We will NOT use the viewing record as the proof of “attendance” as previously announced in the older version of “Emergency Measures”.

MyLabMath Homework:

- The student is REQUIRED to submit their work on the MyLabMath homework assignments as usual and scheduled. However, we delayed the deadline of each assignment of the MyLabMath homework by 1 day. Now the homework assignment is due 1 day after the date of the lecture, which follows the lecture of the corresponding content of the assignment. Several other extensions may be given, trying to adjust to the technical issues that Pearson has been experiencing.

Exam:

- Exam 3 as well as Final Exam will be given online using MyLabMath. The detail of the exact format as well as the time will be announced later.
- We will make our best efforts to provide the fair and reasonable testing environment to all the students, some of whom might have only the access remotely. In view of the restrictions on the capability to proctor the exam, the format will most likely be “open note, open textbook, calculator allowed, but NOT multiple choice”. As I still have to investigate what can be done and what cannot be done technologically, the exact details will be announced later. Most likely a sample of the exam format with a trivial question (e.g., What is $1 + 1 = ?$ or if you prefer, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} = ?$ The latter is the famous Basel problem posed in 1650 and solved by Euler in 1735.) will be given to the students to test if the system works for him/her.

Recitation Class and Quiz:

- The student is REQUIRED to work on the Pre-Quiz exercises as scheduled and announced in the assignment sheet.
- The recitation class and quiz will be carried out in the format described by Prof. Naughton as follows. The forum also includes the questions about the homework and lecture materials.

(Piazza Forum): Students can ask questions about specific homework problems or lecture material in an online Piazza forum. Students will be sent an invitation to join the forum via email. Students should read the forum rules at least once before posting a question (in the Q&A section) for the first time. The rules cover forum behavior and posting policy. Students can use the forum at any time. The forum will be moderated by TA instructors—all recitation teaching times and common office hours (in the Math Resource Room) will be changed to forum moderation hours. The existing recitation teaching schedule and common office hour schedule will carry over to this new system. For example, if Mary Smith is a TA teaching Thursday at 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, then Mary will instead moderate the Piazza forum at those times. If Mary also has common office hours at 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 on Wednesday, then Mary will also moderate the forum at those times. Mary will answer questions (or resolve posts) about either lecture material or homework problems posted by any student in the course while moderating the forum.

(Quiz held in the Piazza Forum): Quizzes and quiz solutions will be posted as pdf files in the Piazza forum under the Resources heading. We will follow the existing schedule for quizzes. Students should do the quiz under normal quiz conditions (closed book, no devices) and then check their own answers against the solutions to get feedback. Students can cooperate remotely with each other in groups. Students can post questions about the quiz in the forum.

- We will NOT collect your work on the quiz or Pre-Quiz exercises. The student will receive the full credit 20/20 for each of the remaining quizzes.

Warning: There have been many cases where the rules of the Piazza forum have been violated. Matsuki is NOT receiving ALL the postings on the Piazza forum. Therefore, if you post a question about the format of the exam, which is not allowed according to the rule, it may not be answered as Matsuki is not seeing it. Those questions should be directly addressed to Matsuki via e-mail.

Office Hours:

- Matsuki is having an office hour MWF: 9:30 - 10:30 through Zoom conferencing. If you want join, please send an e-mail to Matsuki so that he can give you the necessary information to join the meeting (Meeting ID, PW) etc.

Prof. Li asks the students to send e-mails to him whenever they have questions. When the questions are common, he will explain the problem to the students by video-taping the detail and then posting it to the Blackboard.

For Students who need special accommodations:

- Even when the exam is administered in the online format, we will make sure that you will get the extended time if needed.
- Please contact Stephanie Foster ("Foster, Stephanie L" <foster80@purdue.edu>) if you have further questions regarding specific individual needs and accommodations.

Grading Scheme:

- The grading scheme remains the same as announced in the ground rules at the beginning of the semester.
- A more detailed information on how the grading scheme works will be announced toward the end of the semester.

Ending Remark

"It is a difficult time for everybody, with uncertainty and concerns clouding the prospect of the future. Even though we will do our best to keep your learning experience as close to normal as possible, many of the online arrangements are tried for the first time with such a small amount of time for the preparation. I expect that some unexpected minor or not-so-minor troubles may happen on the way. Your patience will be much appreciated. With your cooperation, we would like to keep our education at its highest level as Purdue University has its reputation for, and we would like to produce the highest quality students so that they will be the leaders to navigate us in the uncertainty of the future."

Since I made the remark above 2 weeks ago, the situation in the U.S. regarding COVID-19 has significantly deteriorated. I just ask once more your kind understanding and patience to make the best of our educational and learning experience in this most difficult time.