

Math 111 End of Week 1 Newsletter

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

Friday (Today): Finish Supplements 1-2 and start Supplements 3-4.

Monday: Supplements 4-5

Tuesday: Activity 2 (More practice with rates, this is a great chance to learn the techniques you need for homework)

Wednesday: Supplement 6-7

Thursday: First Test Prep and homework questions (bring homework questions for this day)

Friday: Supplement 7

Activity 1 (from Thursday's quiz section) has solutions posted. Make sure to review this. You are expected to know this material for exams. Reading through this will also make homework easier. You can find the solutions on the course website. Here is the direct link:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~aloveles/Math111Fall2015/Activity01key.pdf>

HOMEWORK:

DUE Tuesday (by 11pm): Webassign Intro

DUE Thursday (by 11pm): Supplement 1-3 and Supplement 4

Warning: The first week of homework mixes in lots of different types of graphs (the information is presented in many different ways). The intention is to get you used to reading graphs no matter how the information is given. The other intention is to get you into office hours and to get you asking questions in quiz section. My lectures will have examples that help you with homework, but you won't see every type of graph from the homework during lecture (especially in this first week) because I don't have time in class and because we are seeing if you can adapt. So start the homework early, read the graphs carefully, and come try all our tutoring options next week.

Here are hints and solutions to several of the first weeks homework problems (I hope this helps you learn how to approach the problems):

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~aloveles/Math111Fall2015/Supplement1-3HWHints.pdf>

IMPORTANT HOMEWORK COMMENTS:

There are NO homework extensions for any reason! You should be activity working on the homework as we discuss the material in lecture. The "due dates" for the homework are always 2-3 days later than they need to be just to give you plenty of breathing room, but you should always plan to complete the assignments at least 2 days before they are due to in case of emergency (because remember, you won't be granted an extensions for any reason). Also remember the goal of the homework is to give you practice with the material you can master it. If you miss one homework assignment or if you miss a few problems on a homework assignment, it won't hurt your grade in any measurable way. BUT if you don't know the material for the exams and perform poorly on the exams, that will hurt your grade a lot.

At the end of the term, I round up your homework grade by 5% so you can miss a little homework and still get 100% (anyone that gets 95% or above will get 100% for homework, for everyone else I will add 5% to their homework grade at the end of the term).

How to Approach Homework:

1. Don't move on until you completely understand the problem (could you do a similar problem on a test?).
2. Always get it right in one submission. **At most you should be using 2 submissions** (in case you have a typo in your first answer). DON'T use webassign to check your work and don't just guess. If you think you are just mistyping something, don't use 5 submissions typing the same thing in five different ways.
3. If you still don't have the answer after 2 submissions, then bring your question to quiz sections, office hours, the MSC, etc... You should never, ever, ever use more than 3 submissions (you are generously given 5 submissions, which you should never use up).

Remember you only get one submission on the test!

4. Treat every problem like it is test. Don't rush through the homework (the goal is not to finish quickly, the goal is to learn the material). At the end of each assignment go back and review the material. Take notes of things that stumped you and come talk to me or a tutor to clarify those issues. Also start making a review sheet of things that might help you if you see the same problem again (remember you get a sheet of notes on the exam, so you should start making now as you do the homework).
5. About once a week, go take a peek in the exam archive. See which problems you can do and which problems look like problems from the homework. In this way, you will start to see a direct connection between homework and tests. Here is the exam archive:
6. <http://www.math.washington.edu/~m111/Archives.html>

HW HINT THAT WILL SAVE YOU A HEADACHE:

On SUPPLEMENT 4 PROBLEM 2(a):

Webassign is a little too picky here. Most students give an answer that is too low. When you estimate the value of the graph at 5, use a number like 275 or 280 (so your answer will be $275/5$ or $280/5$). If you use 250 that is too low.

GETTING HELP: If you need help, here is what you need to do.

1. Start your homework early so that you have time to get help (if you email me the night the homework is due, you won't get a reply). So start the homework at least 5 or 6 days before it is due. The due dates are quite generous, you should plan to be done with the assignments at least two days before the official due date.
2. Quiz section: Your first and best place to ask is in quiz section.
3. Math Study Center (MSC): The Math Study Center is your best place to get some extra help. It is located in Communications B-006 It will be open Mondays-Thursdays from 12:30pm to 4:30pm (starting next week). Come on by! This is staffed by me and other graduate students that know this class well.
4. Office hours: You can also visit my office hours Monday and Friday afternoons (I am in the MSC on Wednesday afternoons).
5. CLUE: Sundays-Thursdays in the evenings from 6:30-midnight there is drop in tutoring in Mary Gates Hall (Commons). This is staffed by undergraduate tutors. Check it out.
6. Study groups: You can and should form study groups with classmates. That is a good way to get help. Just remember that you need to keep asking yourself if you could do the problem on your own on an exam!
7. Email: If you have tried all other helping options and are still stumped, you can send me an email (aloveles@uw.edu), but use this as a last resort.

NEW POSTINGS:

There are a lot of new postings. You can find them in the most recent announcement and on the right side of the course page. I also provide direct links below:

1. Graphs to bring to lecture are here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~aloveles/Math111Fall2015/handouts.pdf>

2. The supplemental text material (you should read this over the weekend) is here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~aloveles/Math111Fall2015/supplementAll.pdf>

3. Overview of Supplements 1-2 is here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~aloveles/Math111Fall2015/Supplement1-2Review.pdf>

4. Overview of Supplements 3-4 is here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~aloveles/Math111Fall2015/Supplement3-4Review.pdf>

5. HW Hints and strategies for the Supplements 1-3 homework is here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~aloveles/Math111Fall2015/Supplement1-3HWHints.pdf>

6. HW Hints and strategies for Supplement 4 homework is here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~aloveles/Math111Fall2015/Supplement4HWHints.pdf>

The most challenging problem for most students is the first problem from Supplement 4 Homework.

The homework hints above should help you get started (it answers one of the parts of that question).

Please let me know of any typos. This is mostly new material that I have made myself over the last year.

Please, please use these! I hope they help.

OLD EXAM QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE:

Here are some old exam questions that pertain to material we have done lately. Try these problems out now to get an idea of how you well you are understanding the material and to access if you are ready for the first exam.

Problem 1 from here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~m111/Midterm1/win14ExamIostroff.pdf>

Problems 2 and 3 from here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~m111/Midterm1/aut12ExamItaggart.pdf>

Problems 2 and 3 from here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~m111/Midterm1/win13ExamInichifor.pdf>

STUDY TIP:

Print off several old midterms NOW!! The midterms mentioned above and others can be found in the exam archive here:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~m111/Archives.html>

In the 5 minutes before or after lecture and quiz section each day, flip through a couple old exams. This should help you get very comfortable with what a midterm looks like in this class and it will add importance to the homework (as you see that the same problems from homework are on old exams). I think it is very effective to get ready for the exams.

I hope you find these emails to be helpful.

See you in class (I should be about 15-20 minutes early to my first class today, come on by and chat with me).

Dr. Andy Loveless