

PRECALCULUS

Syllabus for Math 120 A, B - Winter 2004

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Office hours are times when you can speak to me without making an appointment - just stop by. My office hours for this quarter are listed at the web page above (or will be soon!).

Send me email or talk to me if you need to meet me at some other time, or have any questions or concerns. When emailing me, please indicate which course and section you are in (for instance, Math 120 section BA). Also, start the email message with my name so I know that who you think you are writing to, and sign it so I know how to address a reply.

Purpose of the course: This course is designed to prepare you for learning calculus. This is not a course about concepts and mechanics as much as it is a course about problems. This course will help you develop the skills and stamina necessary to solve lengthy, multi-step problems.

Text: *Precalculus, A First Course In Problem Solving*, 2003-2004 edition, by D.H. Collingwood & K.D. Prince, Available at Professional Copy 'n' Print, 4200 University Way NE

Lectures: There are lectures each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You are responsible for knowing all that goes on in lecture, but you are not explicitly required to attend.

Quiz Section: You will have quiz sections on Tuesday and Thursday with a teaching assistant (T.A.). Discussing homework problems is the main purpose of quiz section. You should come to quiz sections prepared to ask questions.

Quizzes: There will be a weekly quiz, given during a portion of quiz section on Thursdays. Each quiz will cover material through the prior Monday's lecture. Make-up quizzes will not be given, but your lowest quiz score will be dropped (to account for an illness or emergency absence) and your quiz total will be based on the remaining scores. No notes are allowed on the quizzes, but calculators are okay.

Homework: You should visit the class website and get a homework schedule. If the schedule changes, you will be instructed to visit the website and get a new schedule.

The homework is the most important part of the course. Homework will be due most **Thursdays** in quiz section. Generally homework corresponding to the Wednesday, Friday and Monday lectures will be due on the following Thursday. You should expect to spend approximately 15 hours a week working on problems in this course.

Late homework will not be accepted. Instead, your lowest homework score will be "dropped" and have no influence on your grade.

Answers (but not solutions) to most problems can be found in the text. Thus, your homework will not be graded on the bottom line answers, but on the work which led to the answer. *So, you must show your work!*

Since you should have plenty of time to work the homework problems (and to seek assistance if necessary), I will be expecting you to complete and have accurate write-ups of **all** assigned problems. Hence, only a sample of problems (usually one for each chapter) will be graded.

I strongly encourage you to work with other students in the class. The Math Study Center (MSC) is an ideal place to do this. You will learn the material faster and understand it better by discussing it with others. I recommend working with others to find solutions to problems, then going away and writing up the solutions individually from your own mind.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and a final exam.

Midterm 1 **January 29**
Midterm 2 **February 26**
Final Exam **March 13**

The midterms will be 50 minutes long and will be given at your usual quiz section classroom.

The final exam time and location will be announced later.

Exams are cumulative: you may be asked to solve problems using techniques discussed at any prior point in the course.

Make-up exams will not be given, so don't miss exams. Early midterms are possible, provided *compelling* and *well-documented* reasons are given at least *two weeks prior to the exam*.

Equipment: Graphing calculators are allowed on quizzes and exams, but a simple, scientific calculator is sufficient. You may not use a laptop computer, a cell phone (or other communications device), PDA (e.g., a Palm Pilot), etc. on exams and quizzes.

On exams, you should show all work not doable on a scientific calculator. For instance, if you solve a quadratic equation, steps must be shown even if your graphing calculator can produce the solutions.

A single, hand-written 8.5 × 11 inch sheet of notes is allowed during exams. You may write on both sides. Notes are not allowed during quizzes.

Grading: Your score will be made up of the following:

homework	10 %
quizzes	15 %
exams	20 % each
final exam	35 %

Grades **are** curved in that your course grade will reflect your performance relative to the rest of the class rather than relative to some fixed percentage scheme (e.g., 90-80-70-60 etc.). Historically, the median grade in the Math 120 has been around 2.8. A failing grade of 0.0 in the course is likely if your work is not at least 70% of the median of the entire class.

Beginning some time after the first exam, grades will periodically be posted by the last four digits of your student i.d. number. You should check your posted grades to make sure that they are accurate, and inform your TA if you find any errors.

If you feel that an error in grading has occurred, you have **one week** after the exam/quiz/homework is returned to bring it to the attention of me or your quiz section T.A. You should write a paragraph describing the error, attach it to your exam, and submit it to me or your TA.

Resources:

- A link to the class website can be found at:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~conroy>

You will find various bits of useful information there, including a homework schedule, past exams and quizzes, etc.

- The Math Study Center (Communications B-014) is open to students in MATH 120. The Center provides a comfortable place and a supportive atmosphere for students to come together and study, in groups or individually. The MSC opens for the term on Tuesday, January 3, 2004. The center is staffed by TAs and instructors. See the class website for more information.
- The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206-543-6450/V, 206-543-6452/TTY, 206-685-7264 (FAX), or dso@u.washington.edu.
- The Student Counseling Center academic skills workshops on a variety of topics including stress management, test anxiety and time management to help you succeed at the University of Washington. If any of these is an issue for you, check out the schedule of workshops at
<http://depts.washington.edu/scc/studyskills.html>