PRECALCULUS

Syllabus for Math 120 A Winter 2017

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My office hour times can be found at the web page above. Office hours are times when you can speak to me without making an appointment - just stop by!

Send me email or talk to me if you would like to meet me at some other time, or if you have any questions or concerns. When emailing me, please indicate which course and section you are in (for instance, Math 120 AC) in the *subject line*. Also, start the email message with my name so I know 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 course will help you develop the skills and stamina necessary to solve lengthy, multi-step problems, involving a variety of pre-calculus mathematical concepts. We will also work on developing algebraic sophistication, and confidence. There will be a lot of practice with many mathematical methods.

Text: *Precalculus, A First Course In Problem Solving*, 2016 edition, by D.H. Collingwood, K.D. Prince, and M. M. Conroy. Printed copies are available at the UW bookstore. It is also freely available electronically via the class website, and electronically linked through WebAssign, the online homework system we will be using.

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. If you miss a lecture, you should copy notes from another student in the class.

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.

Homework: We will be using WebAssign, an online system, for the homework in this course. Go to the class website and follow the instructions to buy a WebAssign access code for the course.

The homework is the most important part of the course. As a general rule, homework corresponding to Monday lectures will be due Thursday nights, and Wednesday and Friday lectures' homework will be due on Tuesday nights. You should expect to spend approximately 10 to 15 hours a week working on problems in this course.

Since you will create many graphs and diagrams in the homework, it is recommended that you use graph paper when working homework problems.

Late homework will not be allowed. However, I will "drop" 10 percent of the homework points, so you can miss 10 percent of the points without penalty to your grade. This takes care of illness, accident, unexpected travel, etc. It also takes care of small WebAssign technical glitches.

Be sure to write clear solutions for your homework problems. You will need to do this on the exams, and homework is the perfect place to practice showing all work.

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

Midterm 1	Thursday, January 26	50 minutes; regular quiz section time and location
Midterm 2	Thursday, February 23	50 minutes; regular quiz section time and location
Final Exam	Saturday, March 11	5:00-7:50 PM; location TBA

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. If you do miss an exam due to some unavoidable, unforeseen event (e.g. sudden illness, traffic accident, etc.) you should contact me *as soon as possible* to have the best chance of arranging some kind of adjustment.

Calculators and notes:

The required calculator for this course (and Math 124, 125 and 126) is the TI 30X-IIS, in any color. These can be purchased at the UW Bookstore and many other places for under $20.

No other calculators, and no other electronic devices are allowed during exams.

A single, **hand-written**, double-sided, 8.5×11 inch sheet of notes is allowed during exams.

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

homework	10 %
midterm exams	27.5 % 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 Math 120 has been in the range of 2.5-3.0.

To get a grade of 2.5 or better in Math 120, you will *probably* need to average about 70% or better on your exams, assuming your homework average is nearly perfect.

A failing grade of 0.0 in the course is possible if your overall performance average is below 50%.

If you feel that an error in grading of an exam has occurred, you have **one week** after the exam is returned to bring it to Dr. Conroy's attention. You should stop by Dr. Conroy's office hours to discuss it.

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 link to WebAssign, textbook in pdf form, handouts and additional material, **class discussion board**, 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 center is staffed by TAs and instructors. Follow the link on the class website to the MSC 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: 206-543-8924 (voice and relay), 206-616-8379 (FAX), or uwdrs@uw.edu.