Course Outline, MATH 462, Winter 2019

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Office Hours: Thu 3-5pm, PDL C-336 (or, if truly needed, by appointment)

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Office Hours: TBA, C-8L

Class Website: http://www.math.washington.edu/~dumitriu/m462_win19/

Textbook: We will follow (loosely) Miklós Bóna, A Walk Through Combinatorics, Fourth Edition. We will cover selected chapters, not necessarily in order. Attending lectures is really important.

Registration: If you are trying to add this class, use Notify.UW. There should be some movement in and out of classes throughout the first week; during this first week, you can add and drop classes freely and don't need permission from me as long as there is space. Also email me / talk to me about getting on the waiting list. You must attend all lectures in order to be eligible for a space in the class.

Grading: There will be three components to your grade, adding up to a maximum of 100 points, distributed as follows: weekly homework, worth 25 points; one midterm, worth 30 points; one final, worth 45 points. While grading will be based on a curve, things like improvement over the course of the quarter will be taken into account.

To get a 2.0 in the course, you will need at least 55-60 points (depending on the overall class performance).

Tests: The midterm will take place on Wednesday, February 6th, during class time; the date for the comprehensive final is Monday, March 18 (from 2:30-4:20pm, MGH 231). They will consist of a few problems which will be similar to the problems assigned in the homework, or discussed during lectures.

Homework: Will be collected each Friday (starting with the second week), with the exception of the midterm week (note that this means you will be handing in homework on the last day of class, March 15). The (graded) homework will be handed back on the following Wednesday. It will contain both problems from the book and extra problems. The lowest homework grade will be dropped. You are encouraged to work in groups and discuss the problems with me or with Yizhe, but you are required to write them up on your own.

Guidelines for homework: Plan on spending a lot of time on homework (about 6-7 hours a week, on average). Write your solutions carefully, show your reasoning, produce complete explanations, and use words to clarify your formulas. The quality of your explanations will be factored into your grades. See additional handout for writing solutions.

Reading: You will have to read a little less than one chapter’s worth of material per week. When you “read” a math text, do it with pencil and paper and check the details (especially the ones
that are skipped in the book) for yourself. A helpful idea is to try to prove some of the theorems on your own, before reading the text proof.