Math 120 A, Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Alexandra Nichifor (office: Padelford C-326)
E-mail: nichifor@u.washington.edu (please specify your name, “Math 120”, and your quiz section)

Class website: www.math.washington.edu/~nichifor/120S2012.htm (updated weekly.)

Please read the links on this website first before emailing with questions.

(available from Professional Copy ‘N Print, 4200 University Way NE.)

Teaching Assistants (TAs):

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<th>Section</th>
<th>TA</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA &amp; AB</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:yajuna@math.washington.edu">yajuna@math.washington.edu</a></td>
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Welcome to Math 120!
This is a fun and challenging course, designed to prepare you for college-level Calculus. It has two main goals:
1) To give you a refresher and a better understanding of some important PreCalculus concepts, and
2) To help you develop the skills and stamina necessary to set up and solve complex, multi-step problems.

Course Format: Lectures are on MWF at 10:30. You are responsible for knowing all that is announced and presented in lecture, but you are not explicitly required to attend. On Tuesday and Thursday you meet with your TA listed above, according to the times and locations listed in your time schedule.

Calculator: A calculator is required for this class. Any simple scientific calculator will suffice (a scientific calculator is one that, in addition to the basic operations, also has exponential and logarithmic function keys, as well as the trigonometric function keys.) Graphing calculators are not allowed during examinations.

Grades: Your grade will be made up of the following components ((*) = the lowest score gets dropped):

- final exam = 35%
- 2 midterms, each =25% (total of 50%)
- homework = 15% (*)

While grades may be adjusted depending on the class performance, the basic conversion guidelines are:
4.0 corresponds to a total score of at least 94% of total points, 3.0~83%, 2.5~77%, 2.0~73%, 0.7~50%.

Exam dates:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm I</td>
<td>Thursday, April 19</td>
<td>in quiz section (50 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm II</td>
<td>Thursday, May 10</td>
<td>in quiz section (50 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Saturday, June 2, 5-7:50pm</td>
<td>location to be announced</td>
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Exam Rules:

- You are allowed one handwritten 8.5 x 11 sheet of notes (double-sided OK), and a calculator. No other electronic devices are allowed, and you cannot share your notes or calculator.
- To get full credit, always write down complete solutions, including clear pictures (if appropriate), so the grader can determine which method you used, and see all the steps that led to your answer. Answers with incomplete or missing work (say, read on a calculator or done only in your head) will not receive full credit, even if the answer happens to be correct. We are testing your problem-solving skills, not just the final answer.
- Make-up midterms will not be given. If you have to miss an exam due to unavoidable, compelling, and documented circumstances (such as illness, UW sporting events, etc), contact the professor ASAP with documentation and your final exam will be weighted more heavily.
- The Final exam has been scheduled by the Mathematics Department on Saturday, June 2, 5-7:50pm. If you cannot take the final exam on the scheduled date, you will need to file a petition with the Math Department (in Padelford C-36). Exceptions are granted only for serious, unavoidable, and documented reasons. Early travel plans do not constitute a valid reason.
Homework (15%): In order to do well in this class, you will need to study (read your text and lecture notes) and work on homework problems for an average of 15 hours a week outside of class. This is a lot of homework, but it is necessary in order to master the subject. Your work will need to be spread throughout the week – trying to pack 12 hours of work at once the day before the homework is due will definitely not help!

Homework will be assigned weekly, and will be collected during Tuesday’s quiz section (see the Schedule link on the class website). During the quiz sections labeled “Hwk Q&A” on the Schedule, your TA will address your questions about the homework due next. To get the most out of your quiz section, it is essential to attempt the homework beforehand, and to come prepared to ask about the harder parts. In case you are unable to turn in your homework to your TA on Tuesday, you can put your homework in the box outside my office door no later than 1pm on Wednesday (your homework must be stapled, labeled with your full name and quiz section, and placed in the correct folder). No homework will be accepted later than 1pm on Wednesday, for any reason.

Since the answers to most of the exercises are available to you, it is required that you write out clear and complete solutions to all assigned problems, showing your work and the method used. Little or no credit will be given if you do not fully show your work, even if the answer is correct.

Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason. Instead, your lowest score will not be included in the homework average computation, which means that you are allowed to miss one homework assignment for any reason, without penalty to your grade. This is to allow for one unexpected problem such as car breakdown, family issues, minor illness, etc. If you’ve already used your “free drop” and you have a serious, unavoidable and documented reason for another absence (such as prolonged illness, military duties, or university sponsored athletic events), talk to the professor as soon as you can. You will need to provide official documentation for your second missed assignment.

Useful Resources:

- The Math Study Center (MSC) is available to students in MATH 120 in CMU B-014. The MSC provides a supportive place for students to come together and study, in groups or individually. Tutors, TAs and Instructors are available for occasional questions. Hours of operation and details can be found on the class webpage, under the “MSC” link (direct link: [http://www.math.washington.edu/msc/](http://www.math.washington.edu/msc/))

- The Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment (CLUE) offers drop-in math tutoring in the Mary Gates Hall Commons, Sunday through Thursdays, 7pm to midnight. ([http://depts.washington.edu/clue](http://depts.washington.edu/clue))

- The Student Counseling Center offers individual counselors and academic skills workshops on a variety of topics including stress management, test anxiety, and test-taking skills to help you succeed at the University of Washington. If any of these may be an issue for you, check out the schedule of workshops at: [http://depts.washington.edu/counsels/services/workshops/workshopstudy.html](http://depts.washington.edu/counsels/services/workshops/workshopstudy.html)

- UW is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request any 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.