SYLLABUS
TRANSITIONS: MATH 299, SECTION 6

SPRING 2014

Instructor’s Name: David Duncan
Instructor’s Email: duncan42[at]math.msu.edu
Instructor’s Office: Wells Hall C-315
Office Hours: TBD
TA’s Name: Alex A. Chandler

Lecture Times and Location: M, W 5-6:20, Wells Hall A-304
Recitation Time and Location: Th 5-6:20, Wells Hall A-336
Course Webpage: math.msu.edu/~duncan42/Spring14.html


Objectives: The primary goal of this course is to learn to read and write mathematics. In particular, this means the course will have a heavy emphasis on writing proofs. A passing grade in this course indicates that a student should be able to read and write mathematics at a level necessary for more advanced courses in mathematics. In addition to various proof-writing strategies, we will also discuss the basics of logic, set theory, number theory and real analysis. You are expected to learn this material as well; however, at each stage, the focus will be on understanding and writing proofs.

Homework: Each day, in class, I will tell you which homework problems will be due the following class day. I will also post this information on the course webpage. Unless otherwise specified, homework will be due each day at the beginning of class. If you are ever unsure which problems are due, please ask me. It is your responsibility to turn in the correct assignment at the correct time. I will drop the lowest two homework scores when computing your final grade. Late work will not be accepted. Homework help is available during my office hours, during recitation, and at specified hours in the Math Learning Center.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given every Thursday during the recitation. Your performance on the quizzes will be a good indication of your standing in the class. I will drop the lowest quiz score when computing your final grade.

1 The second edition is also fine, but talk to me if you plan to use it (the problem sets are different).
Exams: There will be two midterm exams and one final exam for this course.

- **Midterm 1**: Thursday, February 13;
- **Midterm 2**: Thursday, April 3;
- **Final**: Tuesday, April 29, 5:45 pm - 7:45 pm.

The midterms exams will be given during recitation. The final exam will be a group exam (i.e., the same exam taken by all six sections of this course). I will let you know when we have finalized a location for the final exam.

Final Grades: Here is the breakdown of how your final grade will be computed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here is a tentative grade scale:

- $90 - 100\% = 4.0; \quad 80 - 84\% = 3.0; \quad 70 - 74\% = 2.0$
- $85 - 89\% = 3.5; \quad 75 - 79\% = 2.5; \quad 60 - 69\% = 1.0$

If the situation warrants, I retain the right of assigning grades higher than would otherwise result from the scale above.

Tips for Success: Your attendance and participation in lecture and recitation are crucial to your success. However, successful completion of the homework is equally important. If you can do all the homework problems comfortably (and correctly), you are almost certain of a good grade. If you neglect the homework, there is very little which can earn you more than a passing grade. As a final remark, simply memorizing what is covered in lecture, recitation, etc. will not be of much help — you must do math to learn math.

Cheating, plagiarism, and their cousins will not be tolerated. Also, please turn your cell phones off, or put them on silent mode during class.