

# Math 311, Section 1 — BSU Dept. of Mathematics — Fall 2010

## Course

**Catalog Title and Description:** **Foundations of Geometry (3 credits).** Euclidean, non-euclidean and projective geometries from an axiomatic point of view. PREREQ: MATH 187 and MATH 175.

**Required Text:** *Foundations of Geometry*, by Gerard Venema

**Material:** We will cover chapters 1-8 and 13 and, if time permits, 9-12, 14.

**Learning Objectives:** See <http://math.boisestate.edu/degrees/m311.shtml>.

This class meets TuTh, 8:15am–9:30am, in MG 120.

## Instructor

**Instructor:** Dr. Zach Teitler

**Email:** [zteitler@boisestate.edu](mailto:zteitler@boisestate.edu)

**Phone:** (208) 426-1086

**Website:** <http://math.boisestate.edu/~zteitler>

**Office:** MG 220B

**Office Hours:** TuTh 9:40am–11:30am (subject to change)  
and by appointment

## Writing

**Proofs:** Most assigned problems in this course will involve writing a proof or explanation rather than “finding the answer”. In other words, you will most often be *given a statement* and asked to write a clear, logical explanation or proof of *why it is true*, rather than solving for an unknown or working out a formula.

**Writing:** One of the main goals of this course is developing mathematical writing. Therefore assignments will usually involve a significant amount of writing. You should always do “scratch work” to get the main idea of a problem and then write up at least one draft of your answer before turning in the final version.

**Grading:** Your writing will be graded in part on quality (including clarity, organization, explanation) as well as correctness.

**Format:** I prefer handwritten work as long as it is neat and legible. Typed work is also fine.

## Assignments and Grading

**Homework (20%):** Homework will be assigned, to be completed with a partner. (Individually completed homework will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.)

**Exams (45%):** There will be three exams in class, tentatively on February 17, March 24, and April 28. Exam dates are subject to change; any changes will be announced in advance.

**Quizzes (10%):** In-class quizzes will be given periodically. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**Final Exam (25%):** Tuesday, May 10, 8:00am–10:00am.

**Course grades:** Grades will be determined based on your accumulated score as a percentage, using standard percentages: 90% is no lower than A-, 80% is no lower than B-, and so on.

## Other

**Attendance:** Attendance and participation in in-class discussion and groupwork are mandatory.

**ADA Policy Statement:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accomodation of their disabilities. To request academic accomodations for a disability, contact the Disability Resource Center, Admin 114, (208) 426-1583. Students are required to provide documentation of their disability and meet with a Disability Specialist prior to receiving accomodations. Information about a disability or health condition will be regarded as confidential.