Course Syllabus

Math 143
Sections 10 & 12
Fall 2010
Boise State University
Instructor: Jaimos F Skriletz
Lecture:

Section 10: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:40am to 12:30pm in Interactive Learning Center (ILC) room 201
Section 12: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:40pm to 2:30pm in Math/Geoscience (MG) room 108

Prerequisites

To insure a reasonable level of “mathematical maturity” and background knowledge, a ‘C’ or better in Math 108 or sufficient test scores on the COMPASS, ACT, or SAT placement exams is required.

Textbook

Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus, Fifth Edition
By Stewart, Redlin, and Watson
Thomson Brooks/Cole


Webpage

http://math.boisestate.edu/~jaimos

This webpage will contain all information relevant to this course. All students are expected to be able to access the webpage and to be able to view and print pdf documents in order to get the assignments, exam solutions, and other resources for the class.

Graphing Calculator

A graphing calculator is required for this course. Though I am not picky which one you chose, the supplemental text and the course will be taught for any of the following Texas Instruments calculators: TI-82, TI-83, TI-83 Plus, TI-84, TI-85, TI-86, or TI-89.

Graphing calculators with a “standard keyboard” will not be allowed on the exams. These include calculators similar to the TI-92, and also include pocket computers and laptops. Cellphone and pda calculators are also not allowed on any exam.

Graphing-Calculator Manual

The Graphing-Calculator Manual is available free-of-charge at the text-book Companion Website (www.thomsonedu.com). The manual is required. Instructions and links to download it are available on the webpage.
Grading

The grade earned in this class is the reflection of the students ability to solve and communicate the solution to various questions throughout the course. Students are graded on their ability to provide a valid logical argument that leads to the solution.

The questions will be presented in three basic formats: Daily homework exercises, take home assignments and in-class exams.

The point value of each of the graded assignments are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Assignments</td>
<td>10 points ea.</td>
<td>100 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>100 points ea.</td>
<td>300 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>200 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>600 points</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The base letter graded earned is determined by the percentage of the total points earned using the standard grade scale:

- A: 90%-100%;
- B: 80%-89%;
- C: 70%-79%;
- D: 60%-69%;
- F: 59% and below.

Furthermore, the grades are broken up using the plus/minus system. The boundaries between the plus/minus grades will occur at ‘natural’ breaks in the grades earned by the students. Note that the actual point values are subject to slight changes, in the students favor, depending on the grades of the class as a whole.

Daily Homework Exercises

Homework is an essential tool for ones learning and understanding of Mathematics. The goal of daily homework is to give the average student enough problems to gain familiarity and understanding of the topics of the course. Daily homework is assigned for the benefit of the student to ensure a sufficient amount of practice.

A student should be spending 1-2 hours a day (6-12 hours a week) outside of class working on mathematical problems. I suggest working through most the odd numbered problems in the text as the answers can be checked in the back of the text and the solution manual will provide detailed solutions to each of the problems.

Daily homework is **not** to be turned in or graded. It is essential that the student spends a good amount of time doing this daily work to ensure they learn and understand the material to be successful on the exams.

Graded Assignments

Throughout the course there will be 10 graded assignments. These assignments are graded on the students ability to clearly communicate the problem and solution using a valid logical argument along with correct mathematical notation. I strongly encourage students to solve the problems first on a ‘rough draft’ (or scratch work) and then rewrite a ‘final draft’ that explains the problem and the solution to be turned in and graded.

Exams

There will be three hour exams and a comprehensive final. The exam dates will be listed on the calendar on the class webpage and are subject to change depending on the variable pace of the course.

Students who receive 70% or better on the final exam will have the option to replace their lowest exam score with the final exam percentage (provided it is higher).

Makeup/Late Work

I will not accept the daily homework or the graded assignments late. You have ample time to hand in the assignment before its due date and can email me a copy of the assignment if you cannot make it to class on its due date.

If for any reason you miss an exam I will use your score on the final in place of the missed exam. Using the final as makeup for one of the exams will forfeit the option to have the final exam score replace any of the other low exams scores.

Missing two or more exams or the final will result in failure of the course.

Cheating

Though I encourage working together and getting help from others including tutors and/or friends, this is not allowed on any of the hour exams or the final. If caught taking any unfair advantage on an exam or the final the student will receive a zero on the exam in question and possibility a zero in the class.