Math 203 – Section 003  
10:30 - 11:20 MWF  
Oldfather Hall 308

Math 203 – Section 004  
11:30 - 12:20 MWF  
Oldfather Hall 207

Fall Semester 2003

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You will need a calculator with a square root key on it.

This is a course in thinking and attitude, not mechanical mathematical skills. While we will learn specific mathematics, our goals are not to learn skills as in, e.g., algebra or calculus courses, but rather:

• to work hard, learn, and have fun learning
• to develop problem solving skills and skills at logical thinking
• to better appreciate and enjoy math
• to see math in the real world and appreciate it in that context, and
• to develop writing skills, especially in the context of the math that we are learning

In short, the purpose of this course is to show you what real-life mathematics is about and allow you to appreciate it. Many people believe math is merely a system of techniques and routines useful for solving messy algebraic equations. If you feel this way, I hope this class changes your mind. I believe you will find much of what we do in this class is interesting, relevant, different from math you have experienced before, and most of all fun!

Exams and Quizzes

There will be 2 computer exams, 2 mini exams and 7 quizzes. Each computer exam is worth 40 points and will be taken outside of class time in the university computer labs. You will have approximately seven work-days in which to take the computer exam, and you may take it at most once per day during that period. Only your best score will count. The first exam will cover chapters 1-3 and the second exam will cover chapters 5-8. You will not be allowed to makeup one of these exams if you miss them.

The quizzes will be given in class and will last about 15-20 minutes. You can expect to have a quiz at the end of each chapter except for chapters 5-8. For these chapters we will have a mini exam over chapters 5 & 6 and a second mini exam over chapters 7 & 8. I will tell you about a week in advance when we will have a quiz or mini exam. Together, the quizzes and mini exams are worth 220 points.

There will be NO final exam for this course!

Writing

This course is designed to meet Integrated Studies requirements. Part of those requirements include having student writing which is commented on by the instructor as a significant component of the course. There are two types of writing assignments for this course: projects and focused journals.

There will be 2 projects assigned during the semester. The projects may be done individually or in groups. Specific guidelines for each project will be handed out well in advance of the due date. Late papers (regardless of reason) will be penalized, and excessively late papers will not be accepted. Projects will be graded on the basis of writing ability and style, as well as content. Each project will be scored out of a possible 50 points.
Because writing about mathematics is different than what you are used to, and because I want you to do well in this course, you may choose to turn in a preliminary draft of your project. You may do this any time up to two class periods before the project is due. I will return the preliminary draft to you with comments (but no grade) the class period after you turn it in to me, so that you can make revisions before the actual due date.

There will be 4 focused journal assignments during the course, worth 10 points each. You can submit these by email or in class. If you choose to submit the journal articles in class they must be typed. They will not be accepted late. (Email must be received by 5:00 on the due date.) The purpose is mainly to provide a means of communication between us. With few exceptions, possible grades for journal assignments are 0, 7, or 10 points. You will receive 0 points if you do not meet the assignment requirements. You will receive 7 points if you meet the assignment requirements, but make significant errors in content, grammar, spelling, or the like. If you meet the assignment requirements and make no significant errors, you will receive the full 10 points.

**Reading Homeworks**

Reading homeworks are short (1 or 2 easy problems) assignments, based on the reading to be completed for that day. They are due at the beginning of class and will not be accepted late. Each reading homework will be graded on a 3 point basis – 3 points means that you turned it in and it’s correct, 2 points means that you turned it in and it’s more correct than not, 1 point means that you turned it in and it’s more incorrect than correct, and 0 points means that you did not turn it in. Notice below that these reading homeworks are bonus points. At the end of the semester, Reading Homework scores will be scaled so that 20 points are possible.

**Homework**

We all learn by doing, so homework will be assigned almost every day, but will not be collected and will not count towards your grade. The beginning of most class periods will be spent going over homework. I may sometimes ask students to present their work at the board. You are expected to participate in this.

**Grades**

The course grade will be computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total Number of Points</th>
<th>Minimum Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>220 points</td>
<td>A (+/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Exam 1</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>396 or higher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Exam 2</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>352 - 395</td>
<td>B (+/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>308 - 351</td>
<td>C (+/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals (10 points each)</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>264 - 307</td>
<td>D (+/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>440 points</td>
<td>263 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Homeworks (bonus)</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Important Dates**

- September 1: No Class – Labor Day
- September 5: Last day to drop
- October 7: Last day to change to a Pass/No Pass
- October 20: No Class – Fall Break
- November 14: Last day to withdraw
- November 26-28: No Class – Thanksgiving

**Departmental Grading Appeals Policy:** Students who believe their academic evaluation has been prejudiced or capricious have recourse for appeals to (in order) the instructor, the departmental chair, the departmental appeals committee, and the college appeals committee.