Instructor: Kathy Bartley
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Course Web Page: All material will be posted on BlackBoard. http://my.unl.edu or at http://www.math.unl.edu/~kbartley
Text: For All Practical Purposes by COMAP (Sixth Edition)

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!

Quizzes and Exams

There will be 2 exams each worth 100 points. The first exam will be based on chapters 1-3 and the second exam will be based on chapters 5-8. The exams will be split up into two parts, a written exam taken during class and a computer exam taken outside of class. You will have seven 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.

There will be 4 quizzes, one after each of the last 4 chapters covered. Each of the quizzes will be worth 25 points. There will be NO final exam.

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 during the semester, each worth 50 points. The first project will be done individually, but the second may be done in groups. Specific guidelines for each project will be handed out well in advance of the due date. Late papers (1-2 days) (regardless of reason) will be penalized, and excessively late papers (more than 2 days) will not be accepted. Projects will be graded on the basis of writing ability and style, as well as content.

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 5 focused journal assignments during the course, worth 10 points each. You may turn these in during class or through e-mail. NO LATE JOURNALS WILL BE ACCEPTED and emailed journals must be received by 5:00PM on the due date. The purpose is mainly to provide a means of communication between us. You will be given a specific question to answer for your journal assignment, but in addition,
you may also write about anything else you wish to tell me. 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, with students presenting their solutions on 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>Exam 1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>405 or higher</td>
<td>A (+/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>360 - 404</td>
<td>B (+/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Exam 1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>315 - 359</td>
<td>C (+/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Exam 2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>270 - 314</td>
<td>D (+/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>270 or below</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Homeworks (bonus)</td>
<td>20</td>
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**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.