Math 203 Contemporary Mathematics Fall 2005

Section	008; MWF 12:30–1:20 PM; Oldfather Hall 308
Instructor	Lars Winther Christensen; Avery Hall 243; `winther@math.unl.edu`
Office hours	MWF 11–12 AM, and by appointment
Web page	`http://www.math.unl.edu/~lchristensen3/teaching.html`

Textbook and calculator

The text is *For All Practical Purposes* by COMAP (Sixth Edition).

Your will also need a pocket calculator with a square root function. Many cell phones have built-in calculators, but these are not allowed to be used during the computer tests and quizzes because of their text messaging capabilities.

Course objective

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:

- develop problem solving skills and skills at logical thinking,
- see math in the real world and appreciate it in that context, and
- 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.

Exams and Quizzes

There will be two (2) exams and four (4) quizzes. There will not be a final exam.

Each of the two exams will have a written portion and a computer portion. Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade; written and computer portions are weighted equally. Specific guidelines for the computer part will be handed out well in advance.

All quizzes will occur during the last third of the semester. They will be given in class and will last about 30 minutes. Together, the quizzes are worth 20% of your final grade.

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 a (1) project late in the semester, worth 25% of your final grade. Specific guidelines for the project will be handed out well in advance.

There will be five (5) focused journal assignments during the course, worth a total of 15% of your final grade. You are required to submit these by e-mail (by midnight on the due date).

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.

Departmental Grading Appeals Policy

The Department of Mathematics does not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been subject to such discrimination or harassment, in this or any math course, please contact the department. If, for this or any other reason, you believe your grade was assigned incorrectly or capriciously, appeals may be made to (in order) the instructor, the department chair, the departmental grading appeals committee, the college grading appeals committee, and the university grading appeals committee.

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Date	Text	Remarks
August 22 M	**Introduction**	
24 W	Chapter 1	
26 F	Chapter 1	
29 M	Chapter 1	
31 W	Chapter 2	Journal 1 due
September 2 F	Chapter 2	
	Labor day	
7 W	Chapter 2	
9 F	Chapter 3	
12 M	Chapter 3	
14 W	Chapter 3	Journal 2 due
16 F	Instructor's choice	
19 M	**Review**	Chapters 1–3
21 W	**Exam 1** Written part; computer part September 22 – October 3	
23 F	Chapter 5	
26 M	Chapter 5	
28 W	Chapter 5	
30 F	Chapter 6	
October 3 M	Chapter 6	
5 W	Chapter 6	Journal 3 due
7 F	Chapter 7	
10 M	Chapter 7	
12 W	Chapter 7	
14 F	Chapter 8	
	Fall semester break	
19 W	Chapter 8	Journal 4 due
21 F	Chapter 8	
24 M	Instructor's choice	
26 W	**Review**	Chapters 5–8
28 F	**Exam 2** Written part; computer part October 29 – November 9	
31 M	Chapter 9	
November 2 W	Chapter 9	
4 F	Chapter 9	
7 M	**Quiz 1**	Project assigned
9 W	Chapter 12	
11 F	Chapter 12	Journal 5 due
14 M	Chapter 12	
16 W	**Quiz 2**	
18 F	Chapter 16	
21 M	Chapter 16	Project due
	Thanksgiving vacation	
28 M	Chapter 16	
30 W	**Quiz 3**	
December 2 F	Chapter 19	
5 M	Chapter 19	
7 W	Chapter 19	
9 F	**Quiz 4**	

Important dates. August 29 is last day to register and last day to drop and receive full refund. September 2 is final date for dropping without being subject to a 'W' grade. October 14 is final date for changing to or from Pass/No Pass. November 11 is last day to withdraw ('W' grade).