

Math 2183 Mathematical Reasoning
Course Description and Procedures – Spring 2014

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Tentative Office Hours: Check Blackboard

Textbook: *Case Studies for Quantitative Reasoning (3rd edition)* by Madison, Boersma, Diefenderfer and Dingman. You will need a three ring binder to keep the exercises and other materials.

A graphing calculator is required – one of TI- 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, or 89. It is important that these models be used—certain activities in class require the use of functions found on the TI calculator. **Cell phone calculators are not allowed on quizzes and tests.** You are responsible to bring your own calculator for each test and quiz. If you fail to bring a calculator, you will test without one and do all calculations by hand.

The major source materials for this course will be newspaper and magazine articles. We will read, analyze, interpret, and critique the mathematics, statistics, and other quantitative information in the articles.

The major goal of the course is as follows: *Students will develop the power and habit of mind to search out quantitative information, critique it, reflect upon it, and apply it in their public, personal and professional lives.*

Course grades will be determined by student performances on the quizzes, group exercises, class participation, homework journal, projects, and test.

Projects - 15%
Weekly Quizzes - 10%
Homework Journal - 5%
Class Attendance and Participation – 10%
Midterm – 20%
Final exam - 30%

A: 90-100%
B: 80-89.9%
C: 70-79.9%
D: 60-69.9%
F: 59.9% and below

Class attendance is essential – be on time! Attendance will be taken each class period, and unexcused absences will result in loss of points for participation and attendance. Work done in class for scoring can be made up only if you are excused from attendance for valid reasons and you complete the work and turn it in by class time **the day it is due with documentation** of why you missed. Excusable absences: UofA events and/or military reasons and/or court. If you have to miss for any other reason, and it is cleared by your instructor, you will still be counted as absent for the day but may turn in homework by class time the day it is due. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

In Addition: It is vital that you are in class the entire time and are participating in discussion for learning to occur. If you are not participating in class discussion or group work, you will receive a zero for class participation that day and you may be asked to leave. You will also receive a zero if you leave class early. The only exception is if you are leaving for a reason that we discuss before class **and** the instructor okay it.

Work: All work, other than homework and classwork, must be typed with font Times New Roman and with size 12. When turning in projects, papers, etc. you should use APA or MLA format (which ever you are most familiar with).

Citations: You are required to cite any information that you obtained from any source other than your own brain. For example: If you Google the “best things in 2012” and use a list, you must cite that list even though it is not used in your main paper or project. If you fail to cite any source, it is considered plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Academic honesty is essential! It is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter. Homework and examinations must be written independently. Outside of that, group discussion of all assignments is encouraged.

The **content of the course** will consist of a broad range of uses of mathematics in public media. Most of the mathematical topics and processes fall into one of the broad areas below:

- Numbers and Quantities
- Percent and Percent Change
- Measurements and Indices
- Linear and Exponential Growth
- Graphical Interpretation and Production
- Counting, Probability, Odds and Risk

Accommodations - Under University policy and federal and state law, students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations to ensure the student has an equal opportunity to perform in class. If any member of the class has such a disability and needs special academic accommodations, please report to the Center for Educational Access (CEA). Reasonable accommodations may be arranged after CEA has verified your disability. You must submit your paperwork to your instructor as soon as possible.

Incllement Weather Policy - Class will meet unless the University is closed. If you feel that your situation for attending class is too risky, then contact your instructor by email, if possible. If the University is closed, deadlines and exam dates may be adjusted.

Disclaimer - The instructor reserves the right to make any adjustments to the syllabus at any time. If this is to occur, the students will be notified.