

MATH 2053 Online – Finite Mathematics Course Syllabus – Spring 2015
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Master Syllabus:

You are responsible for reading the MRTC Master Syllabus on the MRTC Webpage at <http://mrtc.uark.edu/7249.php>. Information about the textbook, software, and websites are located there.

Calculators:

This class is taught using a TI-83/84 graphing calculator. It is strongly recommended that you use one for your homework and quizzes to be familiar with their operation. Test proctors will not answer calculator questions.

Grading:

Final Exam	22.5% of the Final Grade	Midterm	20% of the Final Grade
Take-Home Tests	17.5% of the Final Grade	Quizzes	12% of the Final Grade
Homework	10% of the Final Grade	Participation	07% of the Final Grade
Learning Assignments	06% of the Final Grade	Finance Project	03% of the Final Grade
Mandatory Progress Meetings with the Instructor			02% of the Final Grade

The final grade will be the weighted average of the above categories. Letter grades are as follows: A=90.00+; B=80.00-89.99; C=70.00-79.99; D=60.00-69.99; F=0-59.99. I reserve the right to revise downward if necessary.

Getting Started:

- 1) You must purchase a MyLabsPlus student access kit either directly from Pearson when signing into the class or from one of the bookstores. This needs to be done on/by the first day of classes.
- 2) Check your Blackboard and email for welcome, class, and instructor information.
- 3) Before starting any other assignments in MyLabsPlus, you must get a 100% on the Course Entry Quiz.

Final Exam and Midterm:

The final exam and midterm will be exams that are proctored and cumulative. Since it is an online class, everyone will be required to use the B-Virtual proctoring service for these exams. This requires a stable broadband connection, a webcam, a microphone, and speakers/headphones. You will take your exam online under the supervision of a proctor who will verify your ID, supervise you through your webcam, and monitor your computer screen. Step by step instructions for utilizing this service can be found at: <http://tips.uark.edu/b-virtual-instructions-for-students/>

Take-Home Tests:

At the end of every chapter, we will have a Take-Home Test for that chapter. There are 7 chapter and each test is 2.5% of your grade. You will have only 1 attempt to complete the exam. The tests will be timed. The times will vary depending on the length of the chapter, but they will revolve around the one hour mark. You will be allowed to use your calculator and any notes you have taken. Since it is a test, it is a solo effort. You will not have to use the proctoring service for these tests. These tests will help prepare you for the midterm/final, which are worth a large portion of your grade. Check the MyLabsPlus calendar for due dates. Typically, they will be due at the end of the last week we work on a chapter.

Quizzes:

There will be a quiz due at the end of each week (check the MLP calendar). You must make an 85% on the corresponding week's homework before it will open. Otherwise, you can complete it any time that it is open. You will have 3 chances to complete each quiz (the best attempt is what is counted). There will be NO makeups or partial credit for quizzes. You have plenty of time to complete them appropriately and multiple attempts to fix errors. At the end of the semester, at least two quizzes will be dropped.

Homework:

There will be a homework assignment focused on application and deeper conceptual problems that will be due every week. Each question has 3 chances to get it right with a particular version of numbers. If you fail to get it correct after 3 chances, you can load a similar problem with different numbers. You can do this for 10 total iterations (30 total chances). If you do not finish the homework by the due date, you can continue to work on improving your score until the end of the semester. Questions submitted after the due date will have a 20% penalty. As this can be a crippling reduction in points (potentially keeping you from taking a quiz), it is important to finish them on time.

Participation:

There will be a discussion board available with every chapter. This will be a resource to ask and answer each other's questions. You will be required to earn 10 points for each chapter. It does cap at 10, so there is no bonus here (Although, exemplary effort could weigh in the final grade cutoffs.) You can earn points in the following way:

- 1) (1 to 3 points) Asking a unique question (maximum of 2 questions for points per chapter). It cannot be "How do you do #17?" You can feel free to ask this question and possibly get answers, but you won't get participation points. You need to elaborate. Show what you know. Indicate where you think the disconnect is. Please include your question specifics. You could always include a screenshot of the problem from your perspective so others can more easily help.
- 2) (2 to 4 points) Thoroughly answering someone else's question in a reply to their post.
- 3) (2 to 4 points) Post hints, tips, or conceptual support for a problem/concepts that you have overcome that would help others overcome their struggle. You can think of it as preemptively answering questions.
- 4) (3 to 5 points) (limit 1 per chapter) Search for real world relevance to the topics being discussed. Find how what we are covering is used in the real world. Find a source and share the interesting information with the class.

Learning Assignments:

Learning Assignments contain the instructional videos as well as very straight-forward, mechanical questions based on what you learned in the videos. The questions have the same chance structure as the homework. Points are attached to watching the videos. If you do not finish the learning assignment by the due date, you can continue to work on improving your score until the end of the semester. You may also return to these assignments to watch the videos at any time.

Finance Project:

The week after we cover the material for chapter 5 (the finance chapter), we will be divided into groups to work on a real life investment project. The purpose of this project is to reinforce the material from the chapter as well as give you some ideas of what an investment plan would look like once you begin your endeavors in the job market. More details will follow as the time for that project nears.

Mandatory Progress Meetings with the Instructor:

For the two weeks prior to the Midterm and again for one week prior to Final Exams, you will be required to attend a meeting with your instructor either through Blackboard's collaborate or in our office (if that is a feasible option). The purpose of the meeting is to track your progress over the semester, discuss grades, and answer any questions/concerns you may have at the time. Both meetings are mandatory and are easy points for showing up.

Additional Information:

As this is an online class, it provides a unique set of challenges.

- 1) Some instructors teach mostly on-campus classes with on-campus office hours (although this is not the case for everyone). Being an online student means that these kinds of office hours are often inaccessible. We will be holding Blackboard Collaborate office hours from time to time (and by appointment) as well as online review/help sessions along the way.
- 2) Without class time and face to face interaction, you often miss small hints or helpful directions that would be given in class. We try to account for this whenever possible, but it is impossible to think of everything. It is then the duty of the online student to be diligent in asking questions. In turn it will be our due diligence as instructors to answer those questions in a timely manner. You can use the Blackboard Discussion forms as indicated under participation to get assistance or you can use the “Ask My Instructor” button on your homework/learning assignments (See below).
- 3) Typing out mathematical expressions in an email and reproducing large amounts of problem text isn’t ideal. The easiest way to ask your instructor a question is to use the “Ask My Instructor” button that is on every Learning Assignment/Homework question to send your instructor a copy of your problem with your numbers to ask for assistance.
- 4) We use a textbook only in the sense that we pull problems from it and use its chapters to organize our content. Our video instruction doesn’t teach the way the textbook does. The textbook goes through the more rigorous mathematical approach of teaching you how to do every step by hand using formulas and pencil/paper techniques. We want to focus more on preparing you for real world application. We are going to be technology driven in solving our problems. This means that the help features that are available through MyLabsPlus are virtually useless for you for solving the homework problems. This only reinforces the need for peer to peer and student to instructor interaction. We will try to provide general information by posting on Blackboard ourselves when things are unclear, but it is very important to ASK ASK ASK. We are here to help you.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Dates	Lesson
1	01/11 – 01/17	2.1 & 2.2
2	01/18 – 01/24	2.3 & 2.4
3	01/25 – 01/31	2.5 & 2.6; Chapter 2 Test
4	02/01 – 02/07	3.1 & 3.2 & 3.3; Chapter 3 Test
5	02/08 – 02/14	7.1 & 7.2 & 7.3
6	02/15 – 02/21	7.4 & 7.5; Chapter 7 Test
7	02/22 – 02/28	8.1 & 8.2
8	03/01 – 03/07	8.3 & 8.4
9	03/08 – 03/14	8.5; Chapter 8 Test
10	03/15 – 03/21	MIDTERM (03/12 – 03/16); 5.1
11	03/22 – 03/28	SPRING BREAK
12	03/29 – 04/04	5.2 & 5.3
13	04/05 – 04/11	Finance Project (Due 04/10); Chapter 5 Test
14	04/12 – 04/18	9.1 & 9.2; 9.3; Chapter 9 Test; Last Day to Drop with a W (4/17)
15	04/19 – 04/25	11.1 & 11.2; Chapter 11 Test
16	04/26 – 05/02	Final Exam Review
Final Exam Week		Final Exam on Wednesday May. 6th or Thursday May 7th

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed. If changes are made, you will be notified of the changes in class or by your university e-mail address.