

MATH 2053 Online – Finite Mathematics Course Syllabus – Summer 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.

Determination of grades:

Learning Assignments (20 @ 4 pts)	80
Homework (4 @ 25 pts)	100
Quizzes (10 @ 10 pts)	100
Finance Project	20
Participation	80
Meetings (2 @ 10 pts)	20
Tests (4 @ 100pts)	400
Final	200
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Total	1000

Grading Scale: The final letter grade is based on the following percentage scale:

A = 90.00%-100%; B = 80.00%-89.99%; C = 70.00%-79.99%; D = 60.00%-69.99%; F = 0-59.99%

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.

Exams:

Since it is an online class, everyone will be required to use the B-Virtual proctoring service for 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/>

For all exams, you may start the exam anytime from 8am-7pm on either the day it is due or one day early.

Online Quizzes: There are ten graded online quizzes that you will take using the MYLABSPLUS (MLP) software. You will have 3 attempts for each outside of class quiz and the highest score is counted as your grade for the quiz. There are no make-ups or extensions for missed online quizzes. At least one online quiz will be dropped. Each quiz requires a certain percentage on the homework for the test before you can access it and must be completed by the date and time listed. The required percentage will vary

for each quiz. It is your responsibility to check the requirements for each quiz. **It is your responsibility to keep up with the due dates on the online course work.**

Homework: Before starting homework you must complete the Course Entry Quiz and the Mylabsplus Orientation homework. All homework assignments are done on the computer. The computer grades the homework and posts your score immediately in the Gradebook. You may work on each assignment to improve your grade until it is due by clicking on the navigational tab HOMEWORK on the opening page of the course. It is clearly marked in the online course. **Each homework problem will be limited to 10 attempts.**

Participation:

There will be a discussion board available with every chapter (found under Discussion Zone in Blackboard). This will be a resource to ask and answer each other's questions. You will be expected to earn 20 points for each unit. It does cap at 20, 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 4 questions for points per unit). 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 2 per unit) 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. Include a link as well as a summary in your own words.

Learning Assignments:

Learning Assignments contain the instructional videos as well as very straight-forward, mechanical questions based on what you learned in the videos. 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 for 50% credit. You may also return to these assignments to watch the videos at any time.

Finance Project:

After we cover the material for unit 3 (the finance unit), we will be divided into groups to work on a real life investment project. Working in a group is required. 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 week before test 2 and again for one week prior to the final, 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. You can also use a cell phone to take pictures of your work and upload to Blackboard or email for help.
- 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, for the most part, 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.

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.