

# PRECALCULUS

## Syllabus for Math 120 A & B Winter 2011

**Lecturer:** Dr. Matthew M. Conroy      **Office:** Padelford C-544  
**Email:** conroy@math.washington.edu      **Web page:** www.math.washington.edu/~conroy

Office hours are times when you can speak to me without making an appointment - just stop by. My office hours for this quarter are listed at the web page above.

Send me email or talk to me if you would like to meet me at some other time, or if you have any questions or concerns. When emailing me, please indicate which course and section you are in (for instance, Math 120 AC) in the *subject line*. Also, start the email message with my name so I know who you think you are writing to, and sign it so I know how to address a reply.

**Purpose of the course:** This course is designed to prepare you for learning calculus.

This course will help you develop the skills and stamina necessary to solve lengthy, multi-step problems, involving a variety of pre-calculus mathematical concepts. We will also work on developing independence of thought and algebraic sophistication.

**Text:** *Precalculus, A First Course In Problem Solving*, 2010-2011 edition, by D.H. Collingwood & K.D. Prince, Available at Professional Copy 'n' Print, 4200 University Way in the U-District (on "the Ave" one block south of the UW bookstore). It is also freely available electronically via the class website.

**Lectures:** There are lectures each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You are responsible for knowing all that goes on in lecture, but you are not explicitly required to attend. If you miss a lecture, you should copy notes from another student in the class.

**Quiz Section:** You will have quiz sections on Tuesday and Thursday with a teaching assistant (T.A.). Discussing homework problems is the main purpose of quiz section. You should come to quiz sections prepared to ask questions.

On most Tuesdays in quiz section, part of the time will be used to prepare for exams by working and discussing problems taken from an actual past Math 120 exam. Participation in this is required, and will make up a small portion of your grade in the course.

**Homework:** You should visit the class website to find out what homework has been assigned. Homework will be due on Friday in most non-exam weeks.

*The homework is the most important part of the course.* Generally, homework corresponding to the previous Friday, Monday and Wednesday lectures will be due on the next Friday. As a rough estimate, you should expect to spend approximately 10 to 15 hours a week working on problems in this course.

Since you will create many graphs and diagrams in the homework, it is strongly recommended that you use graph paper for your homework.

**Late homework will not be accepted.** However, you are allowed to miss *one* homework assignment, for any reason, without penalty to your grade. This is implemented by dropping each student's lowest homework score when calculating each student's homework average. It is always to your advantage to turn homework in rather than not.

Answers (but not solutions) to most problems can be found in the text. Thus, your homework will not be graded on the bottom line answers, but on the work which led to the answer. *So, you must show your work!*. This is the same way exams are graded: by the work shown. So homework is a good place to practice showing all work.

Since you should have lots of time to work the homework problems (and to seek assistance if necessary), I will be expecting you to complete and have accurate write-ups of **all** assigned problems. Hence, only a sample of problems (usually one for each chapter) will be graded.

**Exams:** There will be two midterm exams and a final exam.

<b>Midterm 1</b>	<b>Thursday, January 27</b>
<b>Midterm 2</b>	<b>Thursday, February 24</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Saturday, March 12</b>

The midterm exams will be 50 minutes long and will be given at your usual quiz section classroom, at your usual quiz section time.

The final exam location and time will be announced later and posted on the class website.

Exams are cumulative: you may be asked to solve problems using techniques discussed at any prior point in the course.

Make-up exams will not be given, so don't miss exams. If you do miss an exam due to some unavoidable, unforeseen event (e.g. illness, traffic accident, etc.) you should contact me *as soon as possible* to have the best chance of arranging some kind of adjustment.

#### **Calculators and notes:**

Graphing calculators are *not* allowed on exams in this course.

A non-graphing scientific calculator is required for this course. These can be purchased at the UW Bookstore and many other places for under \$20.

Other electronic devices are not allowed.

A single, **hand-written**, double-sided,  $8.5 \times 11$  inch sheet of notes is allowed during exams.

**Grading:** Your grade will be made up of the following:

test-prep	2 %
homework	13 %
midterm exams	25 % each
final exam	35 %

Grades **are** curved in that your course grade will reflect your performance relative to the rest of the class rather than relative to some fixed percentage scheme (e.g., 90-80-70-60 etc.). Historically, the median grade in Math 120 has been in the range of 2.5-3.0.

**To get a grade of 2.5 or better in Math 120, you will *probably* need to average about 70% or better on your exams, assuming your homework average is nearly perfect.**

A failing grade of 0.0 in the course is possible if your overall average is below 50%.

If you feel that an error in grading has occurred, you have **one week** after the exam, quiz or homework is returned to bring it to Dr. Conroy's attention. You should stop by Dr. Conroy's office hours to discuss it.

#### **Resources:**

- A link to the class website can be found at:

**<http://www.math.washington.edu/~conroy>**

You will find various bits of useful information there, including a homework schedule, past exams and quizzes, etc.

- The Math Study Center (Communications B-014) is open to students in MATH 120. The Center provides a comfortable place and a supportive atmosphere for students to come together and study, in groups or individually. The center is staffed by TAs and instructors. Follow the link on the class website to the MSC website for more information.
- The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206-543-6450/V, 206-543-6452/TTY, 206-685-7264 (FAX), or [dso@u.washington.edu](mailto:dso@u.washington.edu).
- The Student Counseling Center academic skills workshops on a variety of topics including stress management, test anxiety and time management to help you succeed at the University of Washington. Check out their offerings by following the link on the class website.