CLICKERS AND OTHER MATTERS — MATH 124A/124B

NOTE: Much more information on Math 124 can be found at the course website
http://www.math.washington.edu/~m124

The information below concerns clickers, which are being used in the A and B sections of Math 124.

This quarter my sections will be using clickers. The main reasons for this are (1) to increase student participation in the Mon/Wed/Fri lecture classes; (2) to provide a record of individuals’ participation; and (3) to provide me with feedback on how quickly people are catching on to the new material.

In grading this course, I will count 15% for participation, which includes both quiz sections and lecture classes. All students are required to have clickers and use them in response to all questions. Every question will have an “I don’t know” option, so even if you can’t answer a question, you should at least respond with that option.

One way to be certain that your participation is counted is to immediately press the “I don’t know” option when a question comes up, and then press your actual answer (which will automatically replace the “I don’t know” response) if you are able to answer the question before the time is up. That way your participation will be recorded even if the time is up before you have a definite answer.

NOTE: If you fail to answer a large number of clicker questions, that will have a big impact on your participation grade. Also please note that if you are repeatedly late to lecture, you will miss some clicker questions and you will also have difficulty following the lecture, because a math lecture follows a logical development that is hard to follow if you miss the first part of it.

Clicker questions will all be multiple-choice, and they will be of two types:

(1) discussion questions, which are not for credit and for which we only record whether or not you participated; and
(2) mini-quiz questions, where each correct response earns you 1 point extra credit on the next quiz or exam (but a wrong answer or “I don’t know” won’t count against you and will be recorded as participation).

Please do all of the following before class on Friday Oct. 2:

(1) If you don’t already own a clicker, buy one at the University Bookstore (they’re at the cash register in the textbook section).

(2) Register your clicker at http://student.turningtechnologies.com
For this you need to know: 1) my email, which is koblitz@uw.edu
2) the course name Math 124A or Math 124B
3) the identification number that’s on your clicker
4) your quiz section (AA, AB, AC, AD, BA, BB, BC, or BD) — this information is entered in the “optional” box.

(3) Change the channel on your clicker from the default (which is 41) to 54. (We will use channel 54 so as to avoid interference from any other class in the building that might be using clickers at the same time.)

(4) Bring your clicker to all Mon/Wed/Fri classes.

Note: You can go to turningtechnologies.com to find a lot of information. But if you think you have a defective clicker, go to the Help Desk on the second floor of Odegaard Library. They will either tell you how to get it to work (for example, the battery might need to be replaced) or else give you a replacement on the spot (free of charge).

Please note: If you observe any instance of cheating, please report it to me immediately with as many details as possible so that I can take appropriate action. Besides the usual types of cheating on quizzes or exams, the following also constitutes cheating: using more than one clicker or a friend’s clicker, giving one’s clicker to someone else to use in your place, using a cellphone or other device during a mini-quiz clicker question, talking or sharing answers during a mini-quiz clicker question. Talking and sharing are permitted during discussion questions.

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INFORMATION ON SOME OTHER MATTERS

Grading: 5% homework, 15% participation, 20% quizzes, 15% each of two midterms, 30% final exam

Conversion from points out of 100 to a grade: 90 or more =4.0, 70=3.0, 50=2.0, 30=1.0, etc.

Note: This class is not graded on the curve, except that in the unlikely event that the final course grade median falls outside the required range (which is between 2.7 and 3.1), an adjustment of final course grades will have to be made.

Taking tests early: If you anticipate a conflict with a quiz or midterm, please arrange to take it a day or two early during your T.A.’s or my office hours. Under no circumstances will a test be given late. This is because we make answers available and encourage students to talk about the test right after it’s over.

No excuses will be accepted for a missed quiz or midterm, with one exception. If you have a documented medical illness or emergency, then you will be excused from the test (which means that your grade will be computed on the basis of the other tests, as if the missed one didn’t exist). A note from your doctor must contain a phone number for verification. We cannot accept undocumented medical excuses; nor are we in a position to evaluate or make judgments about whether or not other types of excuses are valid, so we cannot accept them.

In the case of the final exam, if you have a conflict you may petition the Math Advising office to let you take the make-up final exam, which is given 4 days later (the Wednesday of exam week). They only accept extremely compelling reasons, such as a religious objection to taking an exam on a Saturday. If you have a documented medical emergency that prevents you from taking the exam, then on the basis of that documentation the Math Advising office will arrange for you to take the make-up exam, assuming that you are medically able to by that time. If not, you should ask me to give you a grade of Incomplete (which basically means that you have to take the final exam next quarter).