

**Instructor:** Prof. Isabella Novik, e-mail [novik@math.washington.edu](mailto:novik@math.washington.edu)

Office: Padelford C-416, (206)616-9373

**Class web-page:** <http://www.math.washington.edu/~novik/462/>

**Lectures:** CDH 125, MWF 11:30–12:20

**Teaching Assistant:** Yihao Zhang, e-mail [yihaoz93@uw.edu](mailto:yihaoz93@uw.edu)

**Textbooks:** as in the previous quarter, we will loosely follow

- Jiří Matoušek and Jaroslav Nešetřil, *Invitation to discrete mathematics*, 2nd edition.

We'll sometimes also use

- L. Lovász, J. Pelikán, and K. Vesztegombi, *Discrete mathematics. Elementary and beyond*.

Both books can be found on the *reserve* shelf in the Math Library (Padelford C-306). In addition, I'll be posting my detailed lecture notes on-line.

**Office Hours** My office hours will be on Mondays 2:30-3:30 and on Thursdays 1:20-2:20, (or by appointment) in Padelford C-416, starting the second week of classes. Yihao Zhang's office hours will be announced later this week.

The structure of this course will be very similar to that of Math 461. The main differences are that (1) there will be only one midterm, and (2) I'll often not follow the book(s) too closely. Here are all the specifics.

**Grades:** The contributions of tests and homework to your grade will be:

final-48%, midterm-32%, homework-20%.

Your final grade will be based on a curve. However, to get 2.0 in this course you must score about 55% of the total number of points. If you do *extremely well* on the final (and have done a good job on the homework assignments), I may factor this into your final grade.

**Tests:** The midterm will take place on *Friday, February 10* and the (comprehensive) final will be on *Wednesday March 15, 2:30-4:20*. For the tests, you may bring one sheet (front and back) of handwritten notes. More information about each of these tests will be provided about a week prior to the test.

**Homework:** There will be weekly homework assignments (usually due Friday in class) consisting of 4–8 problems. Most of problems will require proofs. The assignments will be posted on the web-page of the class. Late homework is not permitted. I will drop your lowest homework grade to allow for a missed assignment. Plan to spend a lot of time on homework—perhaps as much as six-seven hours a week on average.

I encourage you to discuss the homework with other students in the class, or with me, but you must write everything up *on your own*.