MATH 141 Syllabus

Fall 2009

Section 503: MWF 10:20-11:10 am BLOC 169, Section 512: MWF 12:40-1:30 pm BLOC 166
Section 513: MWF 1:50-2:40 pm BLOC 166, Section 514: MWF 3:00-3:50 pm BLOC 166

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Benjamin Aurispa *Office:* Blocker 630D *Phone:* (979) 862-4192
Office Hours: TR: 10:00am-12:00pm, or by appointment.
E-mail: baurispa@math.tamu.edu -- Please include your name and section number in any email you send me. Check your TAMU email account **daily**, because this is where class email will be sent.
Webpage: www.math.tamu.edu/~baurispa -- Check regularly for announcements and important information, as well as for lecture notes, a daily schedule, and other helpful links.

Catalog Description:

Math 141: Business Mathematics I (Credit 3). Linear equations and applications, linear forms and systems of linear equations, matrix algebra and applications, linear programming, probability and applications, statistics. *Prerequisites*: High school algebra I and II and geometry. Credit will not be given for more than one of MATH 141 and 166.

Required Materials:

Textbook: Tan, S. T., *Finite Mathematics for the Managerial, Life, and Social Sciences,* 9th Edition, Thomson, Brooks/Cole. ISBN 0-495-38753-3

Calculator: A TI-83/84 or TI-83/84 Plus is required for this class. Please bring your calculator to class every day since we will be using them frequently. Calculators will be allowed on exams, but ALL memory must be reset and cleared for each exam. Having any unauthorized programs or applications on your calculator or the use of any unauthorized type of calculator (such as the TI-89) during exams or quizzes will be considered a case of academic dishonesty and reported to the Aggie Honor Council.

WebAssign Access Code: We will be using the online system WebAssign in this class. In order to have a WebAssign account, you must purchase an access code. Access codes may be purchased in a bundle along with a new textbook or they may be bought directly from WebAssign online. You have a 14-day grace period before you must enter a code, starting from the first day of class. After that, you risk being locked out of the system and missing important assignments.

For textbook and access code purchasing options, please see www.math.tamu.edu/ehmwk.

Grading:

	Weight	Final Grade Scale
Homework:	10%	$90 \le A \le 100$
Quizzes:	10%	$80 \le B < 90$
Daily Grades (video lectures and class activities):	10%	$70 \le C < 80$
3 In-Class Exams: 3 @ 15% each:	45%	$60 \le D < 70$
Final Exam:	25%	$0 \le F < 60$

I will *consider* class attendance along with your final exam score when assigning grades in borderline cases.
Due to privacy issues, I cannot discuss grades over email or phone. If you have a question about your grade, please come see me in person.

Exams: There will be **3 in-class exams** during the semester. Bring your Texas A&M student ID and calculator to all exams. The tentative material and dates for the exams are as follows:

Exam 1: (Sections 1.2-1.5 & 2.1-2.7) September 25
Exam 2: (Sections 3.1-3.3, 6.1-6.4, & 7.1-7.3) October 23
Exam 3: (Sections 7.4-7.6 & 8.1-8.6) November 20

Final Exam: The final exam will be **cumulative**. The day and time of the final exam are determined by the University.

Section 503: Tuesday, December 15, 8:00 – 10:00am, BLOC 169
Section 512: Monday, December 14, 10:30am – 12:30pm, BLOC 166
Section 513: Tuesday, December 15, 3:30 – 5:30pm, BLOC 166
Section 514: Tuesday, December 15, 10:30am – 12:30pm, BLOC 166

Class Format:
This course will be taught using a method that involves interactive online videos. For most class days, instead of listening to a lecture during class time, you are expected to watch lecture videos before class to supplement and prepare for class group activities. Some days in the semester will consist of a traditional lecture.

The course content is delivered through the combination of graded lecture videos, class activities, and in-class lectures. A graded video due before a class period may cover prerequisite information relevant to the class activity or information that we will not discuss in class at all. There are also *ungraded* videos. The content of the *ungraded* videos overlaps directly with the material you will learn via the class activities or hear in an in-class lecture. **You are responsible for all course content, regardless of the format in which it is presented and regardless of whether or not it is directly discussed in class.**

On most class days, you will work in groups to complete assignments. Your group will turn in one answer sheet at the end of the class period. If you ever feel that the class activity didn't cement the concepts for you, there is an ungraded video that covers the same information. I strongly recommend that you watch all videos.

To balance your extra workload outside of class, we will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays, but not Fridays. The exceptions to this are the first week of class and on exam weeks where exams will be given on Friday.

Video Lectures:
Before each class you will need to watch one or more videos online in WebAssign. The graded videos have embedded questions that will count as a grade. The ungraded videos are each worth up to one bonus point on that day's video assignment.

- Treat the video lectures like a live lecture. Pdfs of the PowerPoint presentations are available with each video assignment and also through the link on my webpage. I suggest you print the slides and **take notes** as a study reference for later, just as you would in a traditional lecture class. Write down any questions you have and ask me those questions through email or the next time you see me (before or after class, or during office hours).
- Bring your notes with you to class. You will often find them useful for the activities.

WebAssign:
All lecture videos and online homework will be based in the online system WebAssign. Everything you will need to know about creating an account and logging in is available at: http://www.math.tamu.edu/ehmwk/ Please visit this site for help, announcements, and more information. Bookmark this page and visit it before you log in to WebAssign each time.

Class Activities:
Group Work:
You will work in groups to complete the class activities. Groups of three will be randomly assigned on the second day of class and will stay together for the entire semester.

If your group experiences difficulties with a member, you may choose to eject that member. The first step is an official warning via a *Letter of Intent to Disassociate*. If the troubles persist, you may officially eject the person with the *Letter of Disassociation*. These forms are available from a link on my webpage and require my signature. If you feel uncomfortable with this process or have group problems, please come see me.

A person who has been ejected will receive a 0 on the most recent group assignment and work as a group of one for at least one week. After that, if he or she chooses, the individual may join a different preexisting group of two, contingent upon the the willingness of the new group and the success of a one-week trial period.

Late Group Work:
I expect you to turn in the class activity answer sheet at the end of the class period unless I explicitly state that I will accept the assignment late. If you do not finish, your group work may be subject to a late penalty or a 0 on the assignment. This means that your group needs to work quickly and efficiently. If you feel you must turn in an assignment late, you must discuss the issue with me.

Graded Homework: Graded homework assignments will be primarily done online, but may include the occasional written assignment. Online homework will be done through WebAssign (see previous section).

Ungraded Homework: Math cannot be learned by watching someone else do math. It requires a lot of practice. On my webpage there is a list of suggested homework. I STRONGLY suggest that you do these problems for more practice. They will not be collected, but doing them to help you learn the material is very important.

Quizzes: There will be quizzes given throughout the semester and may be announced or unannounced, in class or out of class, so please keep up with the material.

Grade Appeals: If you believe an error has been made in grading, you have until the next class period after the exam, quiz, or assignment has been handed back to let me know. Otherwise, you must accept the grade you received.

Make-up Policy: Make-up exams, quizzes, and homework will NOT be allowed unless a **University approved reason is given to me in writing**. Notification before the absence is required when this is possible. Otherwise, you must notify me within 2 working days of the missed exam, quiz, or assignment to arrange a makeup. See University Student Rules for more guidelines. In all cases where an exam/quiz/assignment is missed due to an injury or illness, whether it be more or less than 3 days, **I require a doctor's note**. Further, an absence due to a non-acute medical service or appointment (such as a regular checkup) is *not* an excused absence.

Sources of Help:

Week in Review: The Week in Review is a weekly session led by an instructor to review the topics of the previous week and to provide additional examples. On the weeks of exams, the Week in Review will be an exam review. See the link on my webpage for time and location, as well as the problem sets that will be worked during the review.

Help Sessions: Help sessions are come-and-go times where you can ask questions and get help with your homework from the student Help Session leaders. For times and locations, see the link on my webpage.

Other WebAssign Resources: There are numerous tutorial videos and videos of solutions to extra problems that are great as a supplement or for review. Tutorials and extra problems are grouped by exam and topic so it should be straightforward to pinpoint the video that will address your issue.

Streaming Videos: You can watch streaming video solutions to Math 141 book problems at http://www.math.tamu.edu/teaching/helpsession/streaming.

Calculator Help: Step-by-step written keystroke instructions, listed as Calculator Notes, are available for your use. See the link on my webpage. Video tutorials for all calculator functions are located at http://www.math.tamu.edu/~snite/M141CalcVideos.html.

Canceled Class: If class is canceled for any reason, whatever was planned for the canceled day will be done the next day of class, including an exam or quiz. If the canceled day is a Monday or Wednesday, class will meet on Friday.

Academic Integrity Statement: Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty **will not** be tolerated. Please do not compromise your integrity for the sake of temporary benefits.

Aggie Honor Code: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do."

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For more information on academic integrity, see the Honor Council Rules and Procedures at http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor.

ADA Policy: The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Note: I understand that a lot of you are taking this course because you have to, and I know that math can be intimidating and can cause a lot of frustration. Please don't hesitate to ask questions in class, to come to my office hours, or to send me an e-mail. My goal is not to cram information into your head, but to help you learn. If you are not understanding the concepts, please ask for help. Don't wait until the day before an exam to try and understand the material. There are week in reviews and help sessions regularly, as well as streaming videos and other materials online. Please take advantage of these resources.

Tentative Weekly Schedule:

Week 1: Syllabus, 1.1-1.4
Week 2: 1.5, 2.1-2.3
Week 3: 2.4-2.6
Week 4: 2.7, Review, **Exam 1**
Week 5: 3.1-3.3
Week 6: 6.1-6.2
Week 7: 6.3-6.4
Week 8: 7.1-7.3, Review, **Exam 2**
Week 9: 7.4-7.6
Week 10: 8.1-8.3
Week 11: 8.4-8.6
Week 12: 8.6, Review, **Exam 3**
Week 13: 5.1-5.2, Thanksgiving
Week 14: 5.3, 9.1-9.2
Week 15: Redefined Days/Reading Days/Finals Begin