MATH 431-500. Structures and Methods in Combinatorics
Fall 2013, MWF 1:50 – 2:40 p.m. BLOC 160
http://www.math.tamu.edu/~cyan/Teaching/math431.html

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OFFICE HOURS: MF 11–12


COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is an introduction to combinatorics for upper division mathematics majors. Topics include: enumerative techniques (including generating functions and bijections), recurrence relations, combinatorial objects (including graph theory and partially ordered sets), and basic Ramsey theory. Time permitting, we will also see some graph algorithms, networks, and matching theory.

HOMEWORK: There will be weekly homework assignments. Doing the homework is essential to understanding the material and to doing well on the tests so please take the time to read the appropriate sections and to do all of the problems each week. Late homework is not fair to you as a student who is trying to keep up with the class, to your classmates, or to the grader; hence you should turn your assignments in on time. If you will not be in class on the due date, you should arrange to turn in the homework early. Late homework will not be accepted. You can collaborate on the homework. But you must submit your own write-up.

TEST: There will be three exams throughout the semester. The exams are tentatively scheduled on September 30, November 4, and December 10. The first two exams are 50-minute given in class, the last one is one-hour long from 3:30–4:30. Each test covers the materials taught in the proceeding period only. I reserve the right to change the dates or the particular selection of topics from the syllabus based on the needs of the class. I will give you at least a week’s notice before each test. If you have three or more exams on the day of the last exam (December 10th), you must let me know at least two weeks in advance so suitable rescheduling arrangements may be made.

GETTING HELP: You are encouraged to ask questions both in class and outside of it, although I will not give solutions about homework to be collected during that class. (I may provide some hints to those problems.) I am available to answer questions in office hours and by appointment. You may also contact me via e-mail with your questions and I will respond as soon as possible.
GRADING:
Your term grade will be determined by your performance on the homework and tests as follows:

- homework 150 points
- 1st test 100 points
- 2nd test 100 points
- 3rd test 100 points
- participation 50 points

There is a total of 500 points. The standard cutoffs for letter grades will be used: A 450 pts, B 400 pts, C 350 pts, D 300 pts.

Any request for re-grading of a test must be done within one week of the day on which it was returned to you. You can not make any change on the problems that need to be re-graded. Any inquire of not-returned homework or test must be done within one week of the day on which the homework set is handed back to the class.

Policy for Absences:
Attendance on a regular basis is expected. While there are occasionally good reasons for you to choose to miss class, my experience has been that there is a strong correlation between attendance (as long as you are awake and listening) and performance in the course.
For absence related to injure or illness, students who are absent from class three or more days should provide instructors with confirmation from a medical provider for an excused absence.

MAKE-UPS and LATE HOMEWORK:
If homework must be late (University approved excuses only) or if you must miss a test, please notify me as soon as possible, preferably before the test is given or the homework is due. In any case, you must notify me by the end of next working day, or forfeit your right to a make-up.

Scholastic Dishonesty:
Cheating of any form is not acceptable and it will be dealt with harshly. In particular, copying work done by others, either in-class or out of class, is an act of scholastic dishonesty and it will be prosecuted to the full extent allowed by university policy. Collaboration on assignments is permitted for this course, however each student must write up their own solutions. For more information on university policies regarding scholastic dishonesty, see the University Student Rules.

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