

August 2006 Welcome Letter

Dear Math 365 Student,

Howdy! Welcome to Texas A&M University and to Math 365. I am excited to get to know you and work with you this semester. I love teaching mathematics and the 36x classes.

Please visit my personal web site, see what is available, and download the appropriate Math 365 handouts and notes. <http://www.math.tamu.edu/~sherry.scarborough/>

On my web site you will find my office hours, the first day handout, the chapter notes, a study guide, streaming videos on special topics and the Week-In-Review (WIR) problems. I suggest you do the WIR problems before looking at the solutions on streaming video. The exam questions will be similar to the WIR problems. It is strongly suggested that you watch the streaming videos on the special topics!

On Monday, August 28th you will need to bring to class the first day handout (read it before coming to class) and the chapter 1 notes. Always bring the appropriate chapter notes with you to class so you can complete them.

Since I appreciate having an active class, I encourage you to ask questions, to catch my mistakes, to 'pause' me when I get too excited and go too fast, and to 'rewind' me when I need to go over a step or problem again. Ask me about the 'mute' button, zebras, ballroom dancing, and being a newlywed. I really appreciate those who ask questions in class, catch my mistakes, and volunteer answers (right or wrong!) in class. One of my guidelines in life is to learn from my mistakes. We can learn a lot from wrong answers, so please blurt out answers. I can say and enhance your learning so much more from offered comments and answers, than I can to silence.

On Wednesday September 6th, your "getting-to-know-you" note card assignment is due. You need to have a picture of yourself that is about 2 inches by 3 inches that you will attach to a 4-inch by 6-inch index card, which I will provide. On the index card, you are to put your name, your picture, Math 365-504, fall 2006, local (if possible) phone number, your email, your career plans, your hobbies and interests, something interesting or unusual about yourself, other things you would like me to know, your group's name (you will be assigned groups), and on the back of the card every one of your group members' names (with your name first), TAMU emails and phone numbers. Please also record your group members' names, emails and phones on the first page of your class notes so **you** will have this information readily available! This note card assignment grade is not one of the grades you can drop since it is very important to me to get to know you,

however if you follow these directions, it should be an easy 100 assignment-grade.

You need to daily check your TAMU email, as I will often send the class important information.

I sincerely look forward to meeting you and I enthusiastically encourage you to visit me during my office hours. You do not need an appointment, nor do you need to email me that you are coming to my office hours. This is your open invitation to come! Notice that if on my web site you click on my office number a map appears showing you where Blocker building is. After getting off the elevator on the 6th floor of Blocker, take an immediate left, then turn right, and eventually you will see my office on the right.

Your assignments need to have your name (first, last), Math 365-504, date due, title (Example: Sections 1.1 – 1.2 Homework), and your pages stapled together. Your assignments are usually due at the beginning of class.

Remember our goal is to prepare you for teaching by helping you understand the mathematics!

Hope you had a great summer!
Dr. Sherry Scarborough, '80