

Course Title: *MATH 645 – A Survey of Mathematical Problems I*
Term: Fall 2020

Meeting times and location: This is an online class. All references to times in this course are in the Central Time Zone.

Instructor Information:

- **Name:** Oksana Shatalov
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Course Description and Prerequisites: A survey of problems in various branches of mathematics, such as logic, probability, graph theory, number theory, algebra and geometry. *Prerequisite:* MATH 409, MATH 415, and MATH 423, or approval of instructor.

Textbook: none (All reading materials will be posted on [eCampus](#) throughout the semester.)

Course Format, Technical Requirements and Support This course is a 15-week asynchronous online course. Throughout the course, [eCampus](#) will be used as the primary venue for lectures, discussions, assignments, and collaboration with classmates. You will need to participate in discussions and submit all assignments and projects via [eCampus](#). Thus, it is necessary for you to be familiar with [eCampus](#) (the learning management system supported by TAMU). Please visit <http://ecampus.tamu.edu/student-help> for helpful student tutorials. In addition to accessing [eCampus](#) through <http://ecampus.tamu.edu/> you can find a link to [eCampus](#) in the [Howdy](#) portal. To access the system you will use your TAMU netid and password. Please contact me immediately if you are unable to access the course website. If you require more technical assistance, try Help Desk Central (<http://hdc.tamu.edu/> or 979-845-8300). Help Desk Central is open 24-hours each day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Time Frame The first day of the online course is Wednesday August 19, 2020 and the last day is Tuesday November 24, 2020. For the purposes of this class, the “online week” will reset *at noon on Thursdays*. This means that one week of assignments will end on Thursday at noon and a new week of assignments will begin. Your final grades will be posted in [Howdy](#) at the end of the course, but your individual grades on assignments will be viewable in [eCampus](#) on a regular basis. Students are expected to follow the course outline and engage and participate in the activities outlined in each weekly lesson. Students are required to keep pace with class, follow the course outline, and complete necessary reading and assignments by the posted due dates. Due dates are expressed in day and hour CST (Central Standard Time). Students are responsible for adjusting due dates to their time zone.

Communication Strategy: There are several ways you can communicate with your fellow classmates and myself.

- **Email:** Email is the best way to contact me on an individual basis. I am easily accessible via shatalov@math.tamu.edu. I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours of you email. I hope that I can respond quicker than 24 hours, but I can't guarantee a quick response all of the time, especially on the weekends. When emailing please BE SURE to put *Math 645* in the subject line.
- **Video Appointment:** I am available for video conferences using ZOOM (you can find a link to it in the [Howdy](#) portal.).
- **“Hello classmates, I need help!” Discussion Forum:** In [eCampus](#) there is a discussion forum titled “Hello classmates, I need help!”. Use this forum to ask your classmates questions about work in the class or to clear up any confusion regarding class instructions, procedures, materials, or assignments.
Netiquette: Be sure to participate in a responsible and respectful way that is consistent with good academic practice. To learn about polite online behavior, or “netiquette”, check the following link: <http://albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>. Violation of netiquette will result in your withdrawal from the class.

Guidelines for Online Class Participation Regular interaction online is strongly encouraged, and a portion of it is figured into your overall grade. Learning what other classmates know about mathematics and how they think about mathematics is

a very valuable aspect in the learning process. It is good practice to log onto [eCampus](#) 4 to 5 times a week to check in and participate in discussions. A discussion board will be available for each weekly assignment and these discussion boards should be used as a platform for collaboration on assignments. There is also an option to subscribe to discussions so you receive notifications of new posts and replies.

Grading Policy Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the homework and term paper. Since some of the work is doing problems and writing essays, I think this course does not lend itself to numerical grades only. So some grades may be numerical and others may be letter grades. The final grade will be determined counting the writing project as half the homework (200 points homework (weekly assignments and class discussion exercises) and 100 points writing project, if we were working in points). The grading scheme is:

- A: Did all or almost all of the work and did it well.
- B: Did a large proportion of the work well or did almost all of the work but did some of it wrong or incompletely.
- C: Did almost all the work but did it poorly or didn't do a lot of the required work.
- F: Did very little or nothing.

Weekly Assignments Each week throughout the course there will be individual assignments whereby each student will turn in their own solutions to a give problem set. When working on the individual assignments, you may email me, discuss with classmates via the discussion board (Hello classmates, I need help!), or look things up on the web or in a book, but you may not copy answers. You must write up your solutions in your own words, notation, and/or symbols; copying a solution from a source and referencing the source is still considered a violation of academic integrity because you are submitting work for a grade that is not your own work. If you use resources to complete your assignments, you must cite the source. For more information on plagiarism and Aggie Code of Honor, see the section on Academic Integrity below. Weekly assignments are due on Thursdays by noon (CST).

Home work	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Due Date	08/27	09/03	09/10	09/17	09/24	10/01	10/08	10/15	11/05	11/12	11/19

Turning in Homework: When turning in your assignments please follow the guidelines below:

1. On each assignment you turn in, the submitted document must have your name, the due date of the assignment, and the assignment number.
2. Save the file as LastName_Assignment#_Math645_F20.
3. You may choose one of two ways to turn-in your assignments:
 - (1) Type your solutions to the assignment in an electronic format of your choosing (Latex, Word, etc.), convert to a PDF, and then submit the PDF via [eCampus](#).
 - (2) Write your assignment on paper and then scan the paper(s) as a merged PDF document. Then submit the merged PDF document via [eCampus](#).
4. After submitting each assignment, be sure you check the submitted document to make sure the format in which you are turning in your assignment is readable (i.e. resolution is good, scan quality is clear, etc.). If it is not easily readable, your assignment **will not be accepted**. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in work that is readable by the grader.

Note that most of the time your assignments will be graded by the math department's graduate student. If you have questions on the grading of the assignments, please let me know and I'll help you or I will get you in contact with the grader.

- **Writing Project Pay attention to the following due dates** as they may be different than the due dates for weekly assignments.

Writing Project Stage	Due Date	Comments
Topic Selection	08/22	Instructions and list of topics will be provided in eCampus .
Term Paper Draft	10/26 2:00 pm	The draft must satisfy the main term paper requirements and should reflect your idea of the final paper as close as possible. However, it is not necessary for it to have a polished presentation of the topic. By submitting a poorly written draft, the student may lose up to 15% from the total term paper grade.
Editorial Work (20%)	10/29	To do editorial work, student must submit the draft.
Final Term Paper (80%)	11/24	

The term paper should be a thoughtful discussion of your topic including the appropriate mathematics and history. A superficial discussion is not sufficient. I want to know by reading the paper that you learned some things and thought seriously about the topic. The paper should be at least 3000 words long, double-spaced, with 12-point font, and have one-inch margins on all sides. It is expected that you will use proper English grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Papers and other forms of communication that do not use proper English grammar, punctuation, and spelling will not be accepted. Use the services of the University Writing Center (UWC) if you have questions about grammar or writing style. More information about UWC may be found by clicking on the following link: <http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/>

Learning Support: The University Writing Center (UWC) is a resource to help you develop and refine the communication skills vital to success in college and beyond. Currently, you can choose to work with a trained UWC peer consultant via web conference or email. You can schedule an appointment to discuss any kind of writing project. Their consultants can work with you at any stage of your process. To schedule an appointment or to view their handouts, videos, or interactive learning modules, visit <https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/>.

Attendance Policy: This is an asynchronous online course, so attendance will not be figured into your grade. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

Late Work Policy: No late work is accepted for unexcused absences per Section 7.4 of the University Student Rules Policy.

Make-up Policy: Students may be excused from turning in an assignment for the reasons stated in Section 7.1 (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm>) or other reason deemed appropriate by me (the instructor). To be excused you (the student) must notify me in writing (acknowledged e-mail message is acceptable) prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible. In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. accident, or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class. For approved excuses for missed assignments, an appropriate modified due date will be set by me (the instructor).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement:

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity Statement: 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 additional information please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Copying work done by others, either in class or out of class, looking on other students papers during exams or quizzes, having possession of unapproved information in your calculator, and/or having someone else do your work for you are all acts of scholastic dishonesty. These acts, and other acts that can be classified as scholastic dishonesty, will be prosecuted to the full extent allowed by University policy. Punishment can range from a zero on the assignment/quiz/exam to expulsion from the university. In any case of scholastic dishonesty, the student forfeits their right to Q-drop the class. In this class, collaboration on assignments, either in class or out of class, is forbidden unless permission to do so is granted by the instructor.

Copyright Policy: All printed materials disseminated in class or on the web are protected by Copyright laws. One copy (or download from the web) is allowed for personal use. Multiple copies or sale of any of these materials is strictly prohibited.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality: Texas A&M University and the College of Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, you will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University’s goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University’s [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness: Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student’s academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in proper self-care by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.