

Foundations of Mathematics

MATH 300-Section 903, FALL 2019

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Meeting Times-Location

Lectures: MWF 10:20-11:10 AM Classroom: BLOC 148
Office hours: MW 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Global Course Description

Name: Foundations of Mathematics

Webpage: <http://www.math.tamu.edu/~florent/teaching/300Fall119.html>

Description: Math 300 is designed to provide a bridge between computational mathematics and theoretical mathematics (“real math”). Thus a major goal is to teach the students how to write proofs. The required core of topics include logic, set theory, number theory, induction, functions, relations, operations, and combinatorics.

Textbook(s): Tamara J. Lakins, *The Tools of Mathematical Reasoning*, 1st edition, American Mathematical Society, Pure and applied undergraduate texts, The Sally Series.

Prerequisites: MATH 148, MATH 152 or MATH 172 or equivalent with a grade of C or better.

Calculator Policy: Calculators are not allowed on exams or quizzes, although they may be used, and are often necessary, on homework assignments. Use of a calculator on a quiz or exam is considered academic dishonesty and will be reported to the Aggie Honor Council.

Electronic Device Policy: Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices must be silent and put away during class. If you are unable to comply with this policy, you might be asked to leave class and will not be allowed to make-up any assignments missed in class that day.

Learning Objectives: The purpose of the course is to provide students with important foundational skills that will prepare them to be successful in higher level courses. The main thrust is to teach students how to understand, create, and communicate proofs. Some frequently used types of proofs will be introduced. Several mathematical topics from logic, set theory, etc. will be addressed, where the newly learned techniques can be applied.

Tentative Schedule: **Week 1:** general introduction, Sections 1.1

Week 2: Sections 1.2.-2.1

Week 3: Section 2.2

Week 4: Sections 2.3-2.4

Week 5: Exam 1, Section 3.1

Week 6: Sections 3.1-3.2

Week 7: Sections 4.1-4.2

Week 8: Section 4.3, 5.1

Week 9: Section 5.2-5.3

Week 10: Exam 2, Sections 5.4

Week 11: Sections 5.5, 6.1

Week 12: Sections 7.1-7.3

Week 13: Thanksgiving Holiday, Section 8.1-8.3

Week 14/15: Sections 9.1-9.3

Exams Policy

Common Exams: There will be 2 midterm exams during the semester. Bring your Texas A&M student ID and a pencil to all exams. The dates for the exams are as follows:

- Midterm Exam #1: Friday, September 27th, 2019 10:20-11:10 AM BLOC 148
- Midterm Exam #2: Wednesday, October 30th, 2019 7-9 PM BLOC 149

Final exam: The final exam should be considered as a third midterm exam and is required for all students. The day and time of the final exam are determined by the University.

- Final Exam: Tuesday December 10th, 2019 8-10 AM, in the regular classroom.

Homework: It will be assigned approximately once per week but does not have to be turned in. Complete solutions will be provided and the students are strongly encouraged to study them, since quizzes and/or exams problems are drawn from those.

Quizzes: You will have to take one quiz on a weekly basis. Every quiz will have questions about definitions and statements of theorems, and will have a short problem. Every quiz will be concise and straightforward. The material for a quiz will be very similar to the material from the homework and/or the lectures. They are excellent indicators to how well you keep up with the pace of the class.

Term Paper: Throughout the semester you will be working on a term paper. Firm deadlines and precise directions will be communicated as the semester progresses. Your term paper will be prepared with the LaTeX (free) software and part of your workload will be to get acquainted with the basic functionalities of the software.

Final Grade: Math 300 is a w-course (writing intensive). About 1/3 of the grade for MATH 300 should be determined by the writing component of the course, which in this class will comprise the quizzes and the term paper. Students must pass the writing portion of the course to pass. The final grade will be computed as follows: final grade = 15% midterm exam #1 + 20% midterm exam #2 + 25% final exam + 20% quizzes + 20% term paper.

Grading: A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F 0-59%

Appeal: Due to FERPA privacy issues, I cannot discuss grades over email or phone. If you have a question about your grade, please come see me in person. 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. You have the possibility to check your grades via the eCampus website. It is your responsibility to verify that the grades reported online correspond to your actual grades.

Attendance and Make-up Exam Policies

- Excused absences: The University views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. It is essential that students attend class and complete all assignments to succeed in the course. University student rules concerning excused and unexcused absences as well as makeups can be found at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>. In particular, make-up exams, make-up quizzes or late homework will NOT be allowed unless a University approved reason is given to me in writing. Notification before the absence is required when possible. Otherwise, you must notify me within 2 working days of the missed exam or quiz to arrange a makeup. 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. I will not accept the "University Explanatory Statement for Absence

from Class” form. Further, an absence due to a non-acute medical service or appointment (such as a regular checkup) is not an excused absence. Providing a fake or falsified doctor’s note or other falsified documentation is considered academic dishonesty, will be reported to the Aggie Honor Council, and will result in an F in the course.

- You will be allowed to make up a missed exam during one of the scheduled make-up times provided by the Math Department. According to Student Rule 7, you are expected to attend the scheduled make-up unless you have a University-approved excuse for missing the make-up time as well. If there are multiple make-up exam times, you must attend the earliest make-up time for which you do not have a University-approved excuse. The list of make-up times will be available at <http://www.math.tamu.edu/courses/makeupexams.html>

Miscellaneous

Academic Integrity Statement

Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

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>

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University and the College of Science are committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws provide guidance for achieving such an environment. Although class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to student record policies and laws, University employees — including instructors — cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues that jeopardize the health and safety of our community. As the instructor, I must report (per Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.01) the following information to other University offices if you share it with me, even if you do not want the disclosed information to be shared: • Allegations of sexual assault, sexual discrimination, or sexual harassment when they involve TAMU students, faculty, or staff, or third parties visiting campus. These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In many cases, it will be your decision whether or not you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Student Counseling Service (<https://scs.tamu.edu/>). Students and faculty can report non-emergency behavior that causes them to be concerned at <http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu>.

Disability Services

The Americans 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 Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Copyright Policy

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