

## MA 162: Finite Mathematics and its Applications, Section 002

College of Arts & Sciences (A&S)

Department of Mathematics (MA)

Fall 2013

*This syllabus contains information specific to the recitation session for MA 162, section 002. Please refer to the MA 162 course page or Dr. Koester's syllabus for detailed information pertaining to the whole course. If you need any additional explanation, please don't hesitate to ask your instructor.*

### **Instructor Information:**

*Instructor:* Jonathan Constable

*Office:* POT 718

*Phone:* (859) 257-6806

*Instructor website:* <http://www.ms.uky.edu/~jconstable/ma162aut13>

*Email:* jonathan.constable@uky.edu (preferred contact method)

*Office Hours:* Monday, 10-11am & 1-2pm, POT 718. Tuesday, 9-10am, Mathskeller

Other times available by appointment

**Recitation Time and Location:** R, 8:00 am - 8:50 am, CB 337

**Course Web Page:** <http://www.ma162.org>

### **Recitation Section Goals:**

Mathematics is about more than just getting the "right" answer. In MA 162 you are expected to clearly explain how you arrived at your solution in an easy way for others to understand. You are also expected to take your answer and interpret it so that the solution can be understood in plain English. Recitation worksheets and quizzes are designed to help you learn to communicate and interpret your solutions as well as to receive feedback on your work. The MA 162 exams will contain questions that require you to explain the steps in your solutions and interpret your answer in a clear manner. The materials covered in the recitations and quizzes provides you with an excellent opportunity to hone your readiness for the each exam.

### **Recitation and Participation Points:**

10% of your MA 162 grade comes from your recitation. Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of every recitation. There will be a quiz given at the end of every recitation, with the exception of exam weeks. Each quiz will be graded out of 3 points in the following way:

3 points - Perfect or minor errors such as bad arithmetic.

2 points - A good attempt at the solution. Either a major conceptual error or insufficient details explained.

1 point - The start of a solution but not much else.

0 points - Not taken or nothing useful for the solution.

Quizzes shall be returned at the start of the next recitation and will include detailed feedback. It is important that you go over the returned quizzes to help you improve. Solutions to recitations and quizzes will be provided on your instructor's website one week after the Thursday of the recitation week.

At the end of the course, your quiz scores, attendance and level of participation will be used to determine how much of the 10% you earned. So long as you are making every effort on the quizzes, attending recitation plus actively asking and answering questions, you will receive a good recitation grade. If you are concerned about your recitation grade at any time, please contact your instructor.

If you are going to miss a recitation or have missed a recitation, it is your responsibility to inform your instructor and arrange to make up the work missed.

### **Recitation Worksheets:**

Worksheets for each recitation will be available on my website <http://www.ms.uky.edu/~jconstable/ma162aut13>. These will be made available by 0900 on the Tuesday of the week of your recitation. It is your responsibility to print out or bring an electronic copy of the materials to each recitation. You should also bring ample paper to work problems.

### **Web Homework:**

Regular web homework will be assigned by the WebAssign system. Web homework may be found at <http://www.webassign.net/>. Web homework is worth 10% of your overall grade and in particular each question is weighted equally. Thus questions at the beginning of the semester count just as much as those towards the end. It is very important that you attempt all of the online homework in a timely manner.

If you need help with your web homework, please make use of the contact your instructor feature. Details how to use this feature will be posted in video format on my website. I will respond to these requests when I am able (you should assume I will read them while on campus during the day and not, for instance, at ten o'clock at night), so you should begin the assignments early enough to seek help. You may be assured that I will endeavour respond to help requests made between 12:00am and 05:00pm on the same day. Help requests made after 06:00pm may not be answered until the following day.

Please try and describe the method you approached the problem, for instance "I derived the following equation and tried to solve it by the quadratic formula but it gave me imaginary roots". Help requests containing only a couple characters will be regarded as typographical mistakes and requests similar to "I tried this a million times and it didn't work." will be ignored.

**Excused Absences:** University Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences:

1. serious illness;
2. illness or death of family member;
3. University-related trips;
4. major religious holidays;
5. other circumstances your instructor finds to be "reasonable cause for nonattendance".

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day for adding a class. It is almost always possible to notify your instructor of an excused absence before class. Students who have excused absences due to University-related trips or major religious holidays must inform the instructor prior to the absence and must complete all work prior to the absence. Students who are ill must inform the instructor of their absence(s) as soon as they return to class and they must provide documentation to demonstrate that the absence(s) was excused. Students who have excused absences due to illness or the death of a family member will be allowed to make up any missed work in a timely manner. These arrangements must be made with the instructor on a case-by-case basis. Documentation for illness or death of a family member must be provided with one week of returning to classes.

**Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism:** See the "Policies" link at the MA 162 course web page.

**Classroom Behavior, Decorum, and Civility:** I expect that you will not only attend class, but that you will participate in class. I expect that you will be respectful of yourself and others. Please turn off your cell phones when you enter class. Please do not work on other classes during class. Please do not surf the internet during class. Please do not read the newspaper during class, work on Sudoku, etc. during class. Please do not talk or whisper during lecture unless the instructor has given you the floor. In a classroom it is difficult for other students and the instructor to hear if there are several little conversations taking place at the same time.

The university, college and department has a commitment to respect the dignity of all and to value differences among members of our academic community. There exists the role of discussion and debate in academic discovery and the right of all to respectfully disagree from time-to-time. Students clearly have the right to take reasoned exception and to voice opinions contrary to those offered by the instructor and/or other students (S.R. 6.1.2). Equally, a faculty member has the right—and the responsibility—to ensure that all academic discourse occurs in a context characterized by respect and civility. Obviously, the accepted level of civility would not include attacks of a personal nature or statements denigrating another on the basis of race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, age, national/regional origin or other such irrelevant factors. Students who are not respectful, not civil, or disruptive in any way may be asked to leave the class.