

MA111 Contemporary Mathematics
Section 008
TuTh 11:00am to 12:15pm in CB114

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TuTh 9am to 10am in Mathskeller

Topics to be covered are the modern mathematical theory of voting, cryptography, compensation, and graph theory.

Grades are calculated on the standard scale with 45% being the average of your three highest exam grades, 15% being the average of your two highest mini-exam grades, 15% being the average of your homework grades, 15% based on in class participation (measured by entrance and exit quizzes), and 10% based on a written project (due Nov 25).

Exams are on Thursdays during class (except for the final). Full exams are given on Sep 25, Oct 23, Nov 13, and on Dec 16 (final exam, on a Tuesday, 3:30pm to 5:30pm). Mini-exams are given on Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 6, and Dec 4. Exams cover a single topic, mini-exams cover the first half of a topic.

The Online Homework is free. Use your Link Blue ID to login, but your password is your student-id (no leading 9). Homework is due by 7am on Tuesdays (beginning Sep 9). If you have any trouble after 5pm on Monday then you are probably on your own. Homework is usually due about a week after we cover the material, but don't wait until the due date to start (the due date is to tell you when you can stop trying that one problem you can't get, not for when you should first start working on them).

Absences must be reported (you can just text me, include your first and last name and course) within one week of the first day of absence. Homework extensions are typically only given if you are absent a week or more. Makeup exams are only permitted for university excused absences (as defined in Senate Rule 5.2.4.2; serious illness, illness or death of family member, University-related trips, major religious holidays; conflicts with religious observances, trips, or other classes require two weeks advance notice to be excused). Note that tardiness or leaving early will directly lower your grade (because you will miss the quizzes).

There is no set textbook for this course (some links to useful readings will be provided), so attendance is crucial for understanding.

Other Policies include handling cheating and plagiarism and civility requirements. In this course I expect you to engage with the material and present your own ideas clearly, with credit given to those who have helped you. Failure to do so may result in no credit given for the assignment in question, or more serious consequences, depending on severity (cheating on exams will be handled at the department/college/university level).

The material touches on issues on which people are divided (indeed in some cases we can prove that there is no right answer, so it is no wonder that people argue over which wrong answer is "best"). Throughout our discussions I expect you to be civil and to respect our dignity, diverse backgrounds, and differences of opinions. Personal attacks or statements denigrating another on the basis of race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender or gender expression, age, national/regional origin or other such irrelevant factors may be grounds for removal from the classroom and complete loss of the 15% participation grade (or even more serious consequences depending on the severity).