

Math 108: Pre-calculus

Fall 2013

Instructor: Quentin Berger - KAP 424C

Lectures: MWF: 9:00-9:50am in GFS 116

Office Hours: Mon 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Wed 5:00-6:30 PM or by appointment

Email: qberger@usc.edu

Course Home Page: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/quentin-berger/teaching-fall2013-math108>

Teaching Assistant: Giuseppe Martone, gmartone@usc.edu, KAP 424F

Discussions: Tue, Thu: 8-8:50am or 9-9:50am or 10-10:50am in KAP113

Beside the discussion sections, the TA is responsible for quizzes (making, administering, and grading).

Course Description: The main goal of this course is to give an introduction to the fundamental principles, methods, and tools of Calculus. We will learn how to manipulate functions and graph them. Thanks to many everyday life examples, we will learn how to use polynomials, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions, and solve systems of equations.

Textbook Required: HUNGERFORD. Contemporary Precalculus

Course Outline: It is only a rough estimate of what should be the material covered during the semester (we might not cover the whole book...).

Chapter 1: Basics	1 week
Chapter 2-3: Graphs of functions	2 weeks
Chapter 4: Polynomial functions	2 weeks
Chapter 5: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	2/3 weeks
Chapter 6: Trigonometric functions	2 weeks
Chapter 7-9: Trigonometric identities and Applications	2 weeks
Chapter 12: System of equations	1 week
Chapter 13: Limits and continuity	1/2 weeks

Homework : Homework problems will be posted on the Course Home page, and on Blackboard every week, on Friday. Unless otherwise specified, homework will not be collected. Homework helps you to understand the material, and to prepare for quizzes: it is not useless!

Quizzes : A quiz will be given every week on Thursday, during the Discussion session, except for the first week of class, and for the weeks when midterms are held. Quizzes are 20% of the final grade: be prepared for them! The quiz problems will be similar to homework problems assigned in the previous week. For example, the quiz problems on Sept 5 will be similar to homework problems assigned on Aug 30.

The three lowest quiz/homework grades will be dropped in the final grade calculations. All quizzes will be closed-book and no calculators are allowed or needed.

Grading: Quizzes = 20% ; Midterm 1 = 25% ; Midterm 2= 25% ; Final Exam = 30%

Expectations: Official announcements, homework assignments, quizzes and midterms solutions will be posted on the course website, and Blackboard. You are expected to check these sites on a regular basis. You are encouraged to read the appropriate sections of the textbook in advance and discuss the homework assignments with other students.

Also, communication is essential: if you do not understand one point of the lecture or have trouble with the homework, I cannot help you if I do not know about it! You are welcome to discuss it with me during office hours, or to send me an email.

Midterm and Final Exams:

There will be two midterm exams:

Midterm 1: Wednesday, October 2, 9-9:50am in THH116

Midterm 2: Wednesday, November 6, 9-9:50am in THH116

The Final exam will be held at the time specified in the University Schedule of Classes:

Monday, December 16, 11am-1pm, location to be announced.

All exams will be closed-book. No calculators are allowed or needed.

Behavior : Common sense: preventing other students from concentrating and learning and instructor from teaching is prohibited. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

As far as academic integrity is concerned, collaboration, use of notes, or any electronic devices during quizzes, midterms or the final exam are strictly banned, and may also be subject to disciplinary action.

Sum up: Important days

Quizzes: Weekly on Thursdays, except when midterms are held;

Midterm 1: Wednesday, October 2;

Midterm 2: Wednesday, November 6 ;

Drop Deadline: Friday, November 15;

Thanksgiving break: November 27-30;

Last day of Class: December 6 *Final:* Monday, December 16, 11am-1pm.