

MATH108: Contemporary Pre-Calculus

Fall 2019

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Friday in SGM 601 from 12:00 - 12:50.

Instructor: Tommaso Cremaschi.

Office: 438D Kaprielian Hall.

Email: cremasch@usc.edu. You can address me as Tom. I usually reply in 24hrs if I don't feel free to bug me again. Any questions are welcomed however, if you have a specific math question and the answer is more complicated than a yes/no I might just tell you to come to office hours.

Office Hours: (tentative) Thursday 10am-11.30am and Friday 3pm-4.30pm or by appointment.

Textbook: Hungerford and Shaw, Contemporary Precalculus: A Graphing Approach (5th Ed.) ISBN: 978-0495108337.

Course Description (4 unit): Equations and inequalities; functions; graphs; polynomial and rational functions; exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; analytic geometry. Not available for a credit toward a degree in Mathematics. We will broadly follow the recommended schedule which is up at:

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/mathematics/math-108-prec calculus/>

However this is liable to change depending on the pace at which our class proceeds.

Prerequisites: Math 040 or the math placement exam. You should be comfortable with general arithmetic and algebraic manipulation, like the rules of exponents, factoring, and dealing with fractions. You should be able to solve simple linear and quadratic equations for an unknown variable. You should know the Quadratic Formula and how to use it.

Teaching Assistant: Yimin Wang

Email: yiminw@usc.edu

Office Location: TBA, check <https://dornsife.usc.edu/mathcenter/consulting-hours/>

Office Hours: **Math Center Schedule Discussion sections:** 8-8:50/9-9:50 on T and Th in WPH 201 (check which one you are in).

Math Center: The Math Center is located in 263 KAP and is open on Monday-Friday from 8am to 7pm on most days. It is primarily run by math graduate students here at USC. The office hours of your TA will also be held in the Math Center, although you can go to the Math Center at any time it is open to ask for help.

Homework: Homework will be collected in discussion each Tuesday with the goal of being returned in discussion the following Tuesday. Late assignments will **not** receive full credit, regardless of circumstances. Collaboration on homework is encouraged, but please put the names of any collaborators on your assignments. Always write up your final solutions by yourself. **One** homework grade will be dropped from your final average. Grading will be done with several randomly selected questions graded in depth per assignment and the remainder graded for completeness.

Late submissions (or photos of homework sent via email etc) will NOT be accepted and you will get a score of zero for such work. However the lowest homework score will be dropped while calculating your grade. Your name must be clearly displayed in the top right corner and be stapled if there are multiple pages. If your TA has difficulty in reading your answers, he/she will give you a score of zero, so please ensure you write legibly and neatly. You can work together (in groups of three or less), but please write up the solutions on your own. Also indicate the members in your homework group.

Quizzes: There will be weekly quizzes, given during your Thursday discussion sections. Each quiz will contain problems from homework questions due that week and from historic class finals. There will be no make-ups on quizzes for any reason, but your lowest **two** scores will be dropped.

Exams: There will be exactly 3 exams. The first two will be held in our regular room and time. If you cannot be there on the date of an exam, you must contact me at least 48 hours **before** the exam to make other arrangements. If you no-show for an exam and attempt to contact me afterward, do not expect to be allowed a make-up exam.

The Final will be a **cumulative** exam. It is university policy that no student may take this exam early or be allowed to skip it, so plan your holiday travel appropriately.

- **Exam 1:** Second full week of October, Monday 10/7.
- **Exam 2:** Third full week of November, Monday 11/18.
- **Final Exam:** Dec. 13, Friday, 12:30 p.m.

Calculator Policy: For quizzes and exams you may use any standard **scientific calculator** that has no wireless capabilities. You may **not** use graphing calculators. Furthermore, you are prohibited from having any wireless device (phone, smart watch, etc.) on your person (wrist, pockets, etc.) during any quiz or exam.

Policy on academic dishonesty: Don't cheat. If you have questions about what constitutes "cheating", or what will happen if you are caught, please review the **Trojan Integrity Guide**, the **Undergraduate Guide for Avoiding Plagiarism**, or the **General USC Policies**.

Grading and Curves: Your grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

- Homework: 15%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Midterms: 20% each
- Final: 35%

Individual exams and quizzes will **not** be curved, except in the rare case of a typo or error that makes a question unsolvable.

At the end of the course, it is **possible** that final letter grades may be adjusted to reflect the final distribution of the scores in the class. Such a curve would always be in your favour, else the standard 10-point interval would apply. Moreover, if it is beneficial to your final grade

your lowest midterm grade will be substituted by your final exam grade. However, no one will know if such a curve is necessary, or what the curve would be, until all grades are in and all drops are made. Don't bother asking if there will be a curve, because even if I knew, I wouldn't tell you.

Grading disputes If you feel that a mistake was made in grading your homework, quizzes or exams or that these scores have been incorrectly recorded in Blackboard, bring it to my within 10 days of the due date of the homework/quiz/exam. Any complaints received later will not be considered. Be aware that a re-grade means that your work will be graded from scratch, and it is entirely possible that you will receive a lower score than originally given, if I decide that the original grade was too high.

Policy on disabilities: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in 301 STU and is open 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP:

http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html

213-740-0776 (phone)

213-740-6948 (TDD only)

213-740-8216 (fax)

ability@usc.edu