

SYLLABUS FOR MATH 1420 FOUNDATIONS OF MATHEMATICS, FALL TERM 2015

Instructor: Assistant Professor Dr. David J. Gryniewicz

University email: djgrynkw

Office: Dunn Hall 376

Office Hours: W 14:10 – 15:00 and by appointment

Webpage: www.diambri.org

Class Meeting Times: MW 12:40 – 14:05

Room: Dunn Hall 129

Final: Wednesday, December 9, 10:00 - 12:00

Textbook: *Using and Understanding Mathematics, 5th Custom Edition for the Univeristy of Memphis*.
Be sure to obtain the **custom** edition along with the all important Pearson MyMathLab access code.

Course Summary: This is an elementary topics course in mathematics, logical thinking and reasoning designed principally for students who had negligible mathematical training in elementary school, junior high, high school and college. Prerequisites are minimal, though exposure to some very basic mathematics is expected. We will begin with algebra review covered in Chapters 6 and 7 (note these chapters precede Chapter 1 as the textbook draws its from material from two different sources) and then proceed with the material from Chapters 1 onwards. We will cover as much of the text as time permits.

Pearson's MyMathLab is required and will be used for Homework Assignments and (possibly) some tests.

Course Name: Foundations 2015 Fall

Course ID: gryniewicz62904

See the instruction sheet from Pearson for how to create an account (which is not free).

You can purchase the textbook from the University bookstore and use the access code provided with the book to register with Pearson OR you can register online directly at the Pearson website:

<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/mymathlab/>

Both cost money. If you elect the latter, you will not receive a copy of the textbook and must rely on your notes. However, under both options, you will have access to an extensive electronic 183 page Study Guide.

Grading Scheme: Grades will be based upon your Homework Average, Test Average (roughly three spread out throughout the semester) and a Final Exam according to the following formula:

HW (13%), Tests (39%), Final (48%).

Keep in mind, your HW average will replace your lowest test score if that improves your score. Be sure to regularly complete your HW assignments so you are able to erase one poor test performance.

Advice and Information:

- Register for MyMathLab as soon as possible. Follow the instructions provided on the link from my website.
- Homework will be posted on a roughly weekly basis.
- DON'T wait until the last moment to do your Homework assignment. Servers have a tendency to crash during the final hour. Get your assignment done at least two hours before the deadline listed in Pearson.
- Keep in mind, the Pearson site has also been known to cut off access to a homework assignment an hour before the deadline listed due to servers being hosted in different time zones. I consider the assignment due ONE HOUR BEFORE the actual time listed in Pearson.
- DO regularly check your mymathlab account to see if a new assignment has been posted. I will generally announce this in class as well.
- DO look at the DATE and TIME that an assignment is due very closely. If an assignment is due at 3:00am, that means you need to have it done before going to bed the day BEFORE the date listed.
- DO your homework each week. Regular completion of homework, taking of exams and attendance in class are strongly correlated with passing and doing well in the course, with good reason.
- DO use the FREE university tutoring center, located on the first floor of Dunn Hall. It is open during normal university hours. You can take sample problems and have them worked out for you. You can ask questions about the material from course and have it explained to you. You can take old homework assignments and tests and have them explain how to handle the problems you got wrong.
- DO set up a regular schedule to visit the tutoring center. Pick a time and go there each week.
- DO begin studying for each exam one to two weeks in advance to give yourself enough time to seek help for items you're struggling with.
- You will need a scientific calculator for parts of this course. If you do not have one, there are freely available ones online, e.g., <http://web2.0calc.com/>
- The exams will be open book, open notes and you will at times need a scientific calculator (or access to one online). The focus is on understanding the concepts, material and how to use various formulas and algorithms, not on rote memorization.
- If you experience trouble with the online site, try multiple browsers or a different computer.
- For technical issues with mymathlab, it is best to call Pearson directly (toll-free) and seek Technical support: 1-844-292-7015
- If this does not solve the issue, take a screen shot (or photograph) of the problem and provide it with as much information as possible when emailing me. Without detailed information, little can be done.

- DO NOT pay any attention to your grade as listed on the Pearson Site. It will likely be inaccurate.
- Missing homework assignments WILL become 0s, but only at the end of the semester. They are not reflected in your grade listed on the Pearson site.
- Your lowest two homework assignments will be dropped. This is also not reflected in your grade listed on the Pearson site.
- If your homework average is higher than your lowest test score, I will replace your lowest test score with your homework average. Again, this is not reflected in your grade listed on the Pearson site.
- The tests will not be multiple choice. They may be difficult, but they will be curved by adding weights to everyone's score. These weights will also not appear in your Pearson mymathlab account. I will announce them so you can calculate your modified score. You can also simply query me about your current grade.
- Regardless of whether you purchase the textbook or an online-only access code, you will have access to an extensive 183 page Study Guide. This may be accessed from your mymathlab account through the Chapter Contents tab, Students Study Guide subtab, and then clicking on the small hyperlink that will appear.
- You can review completed homework assignments and tests. Write down problems that you got wrong and bring them to the tutoring center.
- It is also possible to send me an email about a homework question directly via the Pearson program. If you don't understand why a problem was wrong or what you should do instead, please let me know. I'm here to help you learn the material.
- To break up the monotony of some of the material, we will from time to time have in-class activities and inquisitive group work.