

Foundations of Mathematics

MATH 250-01

Spring 2023

Instructor: Barton Willis, PhD, Professor of Mathematics

Office: Discovery Hall, Room 368

☎: 308-865-8868

✉: willisb@unk.edu

Zoom for classes: For Zoom class meetings, use the Meeting ID: 616 568 5706.

Office Hours: Either in person or by Zoom: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:30 AM– 11:00 AM, Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 PM– 2:00 PM, and by appointment.

Class meeting time and place

This class meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in Discovery Hall, room 386 from 2:30 PM to 3:20:PM.

Course Resources

Our textbook is *Introduction to Mathematical Structures and Proofs*, 2nd edition, by Larry Gerstein. Some homework assignments for this course will need to be typeset. To do this, you will need to create a *no cost* account on Overleaf (<https://www.overleaf.com/>). For tutorial for using Overleaf, see <https://www.overleaf.com/tutorial>.

Important Dates

First Homework due	January 28
Exam 1	February 17
Exam 2	March 2
Exam 3	April 14
Final exam	May 15 3:30 PM– 5:30 PM

Grading

Your course grade will be based on weekly homework sets, three midterm exams, and a comprehensive final exam; specifically:

Weekly Homework: 12 fifteen point assignments	180 (total)
Mid-term exams 1,2, and 3: 100 points each	300 (total)
Comprehensive Final exam	150 (total)

If it is necessary to adjust the number of homework assignments, your homework point total will be scaled to a total of 120. For example, if we have only eleven homework sets, your homework score will be scaled by a factor of 180/165.

The following table shows the *minimum* number of points (out of 630) that are required for each of the twelve letter grades D- through A+. For example, a point total of 542 points will earn you a grade of B+, and a point total of 567 points will earn you a grade of A-. A point total of 377 or less earns you a failing course grade.

D-	378	B-	504
D	397	B	523
D+	416	B+	542
C-	441	A-	567
C	460	A	586
C+	479	A+	611

Prerequisite

The prerequisite for MATH 250 is an earned grade of D- or higher in either MATH 115 or MATH 123.

Catalog description

Foundations of Mathematics (3 credit hours) Topics of sets and symbolic logic are studied with the objective of using them in the detailed study of the nature of different types of proofs used in mathematics. Also, the processes of problem solving are studied for developing strategies of problem solving.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students will

- (a) gain an understanding of naïve set theory.
- (b) gain an understanding of symbolic logic, quantifiers, and functions.
- (c) gain an understanding of direct proofs, proofs by contradiction, proofs by contrapositive, and proofs by induction.
- (d) gain the ability to read and understand mathematical proofs.
- (e) gain the problem solving skills that are needed to create a mathematical proof.

Course Calendar

Generally, we'll adhere to the scheduled exam dates even if we are ahead or behind with course work. When we are ahead or behind, the topics on the exams will be appropriately adjusted.

Notices:

- (a) *Exams will be given on the **Friday** of the week they are assigned.*
- (b) Homework (**HW**) will be due at midnight on Saturday of the week they are assigned.

Week	Week Starting	Section(s)	Topic(s)	Assessment
1	January 23	\$1.1, \$1.2	Logical connectives; Truth tables	HW 1
2	January 30	\$1.3	Introduction to Overleaf, Conditional statements	HW 2
3	February 6	\$1.4, \$1.5	Proof structures; Logical equivalence	HW 3
4	February 13	\$2.1, \$2.2	Sets; Russell's paradox	Exam 1
5	February 21	\$2.3, \$2.4	Quantifiers; Set inclusion	HW 4
6	February 20	\$2.5, \$2.6	Union, intersection, complements; Indexed sets	HW 5
7	February 27	\$2.7, \$2.8	Power sets; Ordered pairs	HW 6
8	March 6	\$2.9	Set decompositions	Exam 2
9	March 20	\$2.10	Induction	HW 7
10	March 27	\$3.1	Functions	HW 8
11	April 3	\$3.2, \$3.3	One-to-one and onto functions; Function composition	HW 9
12	April 10	\$4.1, \$4.2	Cardinality; Finite and infinite sets	Exam 3
13	April 17	\$4.3	Countable and uncountable sets	HW 10
14	April 24	\$5.1, \$5.2	Combinatorial problems; Addition and product rules	HW 11
15	May 1	\$5.3	Permutations	HW 12
16	May 8	\$5.4	Permutations and geometric symmetry	
17	May 15			Final Exam

Policies

Unless an assessment is *explicitly* stated to be a group project, *all work you turn in for a grade must be your own*. If you need assistance in completing a homework assignment, you may ask me for help. Googling for answers, seeking help from the Learning Commons or other faculty members, or using solution keys from previous terms (either from UNK or other universities) is also prohibited. Violation of these rules will result in earning a grade of zero on the assessment. Each homework assignment you turn in for a grade must include the statement:

I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment.

If two assignments are so similar that only collaboration could explain their similarities, both assignments will receive a grade of zero. Using unauthorized materials or communication devices (cell phone, for example) while taking a test will earn you a grade of zero on that assessment. For the university academic integrity policy, please read <https://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/academics/academic-regulations/academic-integrity-policy/>

Specially, our course policies are:

1. Regular in person class attendance is required. If you are ill or need to miss class due to athletics, please let me know ahead of time and I will make an effort to put the class on Zoom. Our classroom technology often doesn't work, so do not rely on watching recorded classes.
2. There is no explicit grade penalty for not attending class. But if you choose to not attend class for reasons other than illness or athletics, I reserve the right to not be all that helpful in giving you assistance on homework or helping you learn missed material.
3. All examinations, including the final exam, must be taken in person.
4. For examinations and in class assignments, show your work. *No credit will be given for multi-step problems without the necessary work. Your solution must contain enough detail so that I am convinced that you could correctly work any similar problem.* Also erase or clearly mark any work you want me to ignore; otherwise, I'll grade it.
5. The work you turn in is expected to be *accurate, complete, concise, neat, and well-organized. You will not earn full credit on work that falls short of these expectations.*
6. Class cancellations due to weather, illness, or other unplanned circumstances may require that we make adjustments to the course calendar, exam dates, and due dates or specifics for course assessments.
7. Extra credit is not allowed.
8. For examinations, you may use a teacher provided quick reference sheet, but no other reference materials. You may also use a pencil, eraser, and a scientific calculator. For examinations, your phone and all such devices must be turned off and *out of sight*.
9. Generally, if you are ill or absent for any reason (including athletics), you must turn in your in class work on time. Permission to turn in work late must be made before the due date, otherwise late in class work will count zero points.
10. During class time, please refrain from using electronic devices. If your device usage distracts your classmates, I will ask you to put it away. If it's my impression that you are often not paying attention in class, I reserve the right to decline to help you during office hours.
11. The final examination will be *comprehensive* and it will be given during the time scheduled by the University. Except for *extraordinary circumstances* you must take the exam at this time.
12. If you have questions about how your work has been graded, make an appointment with me immediately.
13. Please regularly check Canvas to verify that your scores have been recorded correctly. If I made a mistake in recording one of your grades, I'll correct it provided you saved your paper.

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes they may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security) 308-865-8911

Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with the UNK Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

Students Who are Pregnant

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact the Student Health office at 308-865-8218. The following links provide information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights:

1. <https://thepregnantscholar.org/title-ix-basics/>
2. <https://nwlc.org/resource/faq-pregnant-and-parenting-college-graduate-students-rights/UNKStatementofDiversity&Inclusion>

UNK Statement of Diversity & Inclusion

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our Latinx and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences. The following link provides resources and other information regarding D&I: <https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.php>