

**MATH 231 SECTION AD7**  
**FALL 2011**

**Meeting:** TR 3-4:50pm 173 Altgeld Hall

**Fearless Leader:** Ben Reiniger

**Office:** 245 Altgeld Hall

**Email:** reinige1@illinois.edu

**Website:** [www.math.uiuc.edu/~reinige1/teachingf11.html](http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~reinige1/teachingf11.html)

**Office Hours:** TBD

You can also make an appointment to meet outside of ordinary office hours.

In addition, there will be a tutoring room made available for all Calc 2 classes.

**General Information:** This is the discussion section for our Math 231 class. More details about the main lecture can be found at the course website:

<http://go.illinois.edu/Math231Fall2011>

We will generally spend half of our two hours on the same (graded) worksheets that the other 231 sections have, and the other half will be spent on Merit style worksheet.

**Merit Grading:** Being in this merit section includes credit via Math199. You will receive a grade for this course based on attendance, preparation, and participation. You will receive extra credit for silly hats (just kidding). Each meeting will be worth 10 points:

- 3 points for attendance. Tardiness will lose some of these points.
- 7 points for preparation and participation. You are expected to come to class with some working knowledge of the material covered in lecture up to that point (so read your notes! Notes are no good if you never look at them again!). You are expected to actively contribute to your group discussion. There will be some times when you are the expert in your group on a subject: you should carefully explain to your group members. There will be other times when you are very confused: you should ask questions of your group members.

Point deductions will be harsher for repeated offenses. I furthermore reserve the right to deduct points for any annoyance that may detract from the learning atmosphere. That is to say, *respect my authoritah!*

If you need to miss class due to illness or university related activity, bring appropriate documentation and we'll work something out. Note that missed worksheets cannot be made up, per course policy.

The final grading scheme for 199 will be no more strict than the standard 10 point scale. Note that to continue in the Merit program, you must earn at least a B in 199 and a C in 231.

**(My) Merit Philosophy:**

You have volunteered to be in this Merit section, so I expect you to take some initiative in learning this material. The extra hour you spend in this section (over an ordinary discussion) is designed to allow you a deeper understanding of the material. The Merit section is definitely not a review session! In particular, I expect you to spend ample time outside of class doing the things you ought to do in any math class: attending lecture (taking notes *and* listening actively), doing homework problems (those assigned as well as possibly extra practice problems), reading your course notes and textbook, etc.

During our extra discussion time, you will work in groups on carefully constructed worksheets. The problems are designed to incite deeper thinking about the subject. They will be more difficult but ultimately more rewarding for you. The Merit worksheets will probably not be completed in class—don't fret about not finishing! I will wander around the room, giving guidance as needed. I will not often give direct answers, and will frequently answer with another question.

**Practice Exams:** We will have practice exams before each of the 231 hour exams. Times will be arranged during the semester.

**Decorum:** You should not make or take phone calls in class. You should not text in class. You should not access the internet in class. If I see a phone except to be turned off, you will lose points for the day. (Even on a vibrate setting many phones are distracting.) You will not be allowed calculators on quizzes and exams, so you should not get used to them: you should not use calculators or any calculating device (calculator, app, computer, or otherwise).

You will get to know your fellow students, and it is natural to digress from mathematical banter. But remember that this time is for math: keep on task. It would be a good idea to meet up outside of class to work together on homework and review the worksheets; these unofficial meetings make a good place to further socialize. It might be a good idea to form study groups with classmates from other discussion sections in addition.

**Feedback:** You will have several opportunities during the semester to provide feedback on the merit program and on this discussion in particular. Please make use of these opportunities, and have thoughtful comments ready. If, at any time, you feel an urgent need to comment on the way the course is going, you can talk to me directly or drop an anonymous note into my mailbox (located in 250 Altgeld).

*I look forward to working with all of you this semester. Good luck!*