

March 18, 2020 around 9 am

Hi,

I am trying not to inundate you with e-mails, as I am sure that you already are inundated and I don't want to add to the chaos. Here is a quick update with some information on MATH 253.

1. On Monday at 7:58 am we will have our first distance meeting via Zoom Meeting. Please download Zoom Meeting software or somehow figure out how to be ready and online for this meeting.

2. I am regularly updating the class Blackboard site, but it is a work in progress. Right now it has links to our Zoom Meeting ID and slides of lecture notes for the first lecture. Check back regularly for more information.

3. Thank you for filling out the survey. I will likely need still more information, but it was very helpful.

4. Things that are set for the rest of the semester: a. regular class meetings 8 - 9 am on Zoom Meeting M, W, Th and F each week b. quiz on Max/Mins and Lagrange multipliers Friday, March 27. This is a trial for us, to see how capable online assessment is for our class needs. c. Monday's Zoom lecture will be used to discuss the future of MATH 253 this term, test for bugs/problems with Zoom Meeting accessibility, to go over Quizzes 5 and 6 solutions, etc. d. removal of several sections of content from MATH 253 to accommodate the shortening of the semester and the difficulty of transitioning to online course offering e. Our section of MATH 253 is integrating with the online section. The online instructor has kindly offered to let me post all her lecture notes for her online class. (She has taught this online before so is an incredibly valuable resource.) I am opening my Zoom lectures to her students.

5. Things that are not set for the rest of the semester: a. the date of midterm 2. Currently, I have it down for Th April 2, but this is very tentative. b. grading. I am currently considering options. Several colleagues have suggested Gradescope, and I will get a demo today. Update later. c. HW and Quizzes. Ideally, our TA will continue to grade homework which you will now have to submit online as a pdf file. I am considering shifting the way I do quizzes, primarily because of time constraints and proctoring. More information when I decide. d. In truth, everything. I only commit myself to the doing the best we can, given the circumstances. Lecture format, quizzes, assessments, etc. might all change, to adapt to more and more restrictions and unforeseen difficulties.

6. Things to think about: You need to think/come up with a solution as to a) how you will attend class; b) how you will upload HW and quizzes as pdf files for grading (i.e. how to make them into pdf files that can then be uploaded for grading via a scanner, phone+conversion to pdf, etc.); and c) how you will meet the increased expectation of your active participation in MATH 253.

7. Keep checking Blackboard and the class website

https://eallman.github.io/classes/253/253_2020.html

for updates.

8. I am sending this message with all e-mail addresses visible so that I can make an e-mail alias that removes students who have withdrawn from MATH 253. I will post a copy of this content to Blackboard too, to make sure the e-mail list is not missing any student.

Finally, enjoy some time off. Keep things in focus. Stay healthy. These are not, thank goodness, ordinary times.

Elizabeth

P.S. For all those whom I asked in class not to use your phones, celebrate! They might be your saviour in connecting now ;-)