Workshop Guide

Edward Bensley Email: ebensle1@charlotte.edu Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 - 3:00 Fretwell 321

Fall 2025

1 Introduction

The purpose of the workshop is to expose you to material that you will see later or be expected to know for the work to come; that way, you aren't in class seeing something for the first time and having to work with it without building familiarity. While this material is "basic", that doesn't mean that it is easy or that you should feel bad for being here. Building a strong foundation is of the utmost importance, and this course is here to do that.

1.1 Notes

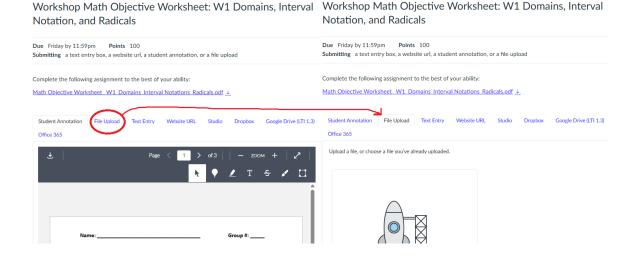
I will print and hand out the notes that I use to help deliver lectures. A good strategy is to follow along with them and take notes in the margins, highlighting things that are important (or confusing), writing your own questions and any answers I provide, and your own realizations. Another useful strategy is color coding (i.e., highlighting) to keep track of the parts that we manipulate. It's intimidating to read math that has been typed, but working through this aversion will make you stronger both as a student and emotionally.

2 Assignments

The workshop has three types of assignments: worksheets, quizzes, and test reviews. These are available on the Canvas page for this course, found under the "Assignments" tab; assignments for the workshop are due on Fridays. You can and **should** work together on assignments, as nothing in the world has ever been accomplished by the effort of a single person working really hard, because you will finish sooner and get your work done faster. If you complete all of your work, you don't need to stay for the entire time.

2.1 Worksheets

Worksheets are due **every Friday**. I will provide physical copies of these and I strongly recommend that you write on them as opposed to annotating your answers directly on the PDF on canvas. When submitting, you need to scan or take a picture of the assignment. My recommendation is that you use the Adobe Scanner or Cam Scanner app on your phone. If your work is in file format that cannot be read, I will inform you of this the first time and grade normally. I will not grade future submissions. Solutions will be released after I grade everyone's work. To actually submit, navigate to the assignments tab on Canvas then click on the particular assignment. This takes you



to the page where you may directly annotate your answers, if desired; scroll up a bit and you'll see a tab called "File Upload". Above is a picture that should clear up any confusion.

2.2 Quizzes

You have **one attempt** to take quizzes, usually consisting of four questions. They are taken and submitted through Canvas. Again, I strongly recommend completing these during class or during my office hours because I will help you as much as I can. You will need an access code to take a quiz; these are found on the notes that I hand out on the top right of every page following the first one. It is not possible for you to simultaneously show up and not know the quiz code because I make enough copies to give to everyone. If you are unable to attend class due to illness or prior obligations (e.g. sports), please email me in advance and I'll be happy to send you the notes (which includes the quiz code) and the worksheet. If some emergency happens, email me as soon as possible - don't wait until the last minute. If you miss class for any other reason, come to my office hours and we'll go through the material and the quiz together. Otherwise, do not email me asking for the code because I will ignore them.

2.3 Test Review

Obviously, test reviews are done before each of the three tests. These are similar to quizzes in that they are done on Canvas and require a code, but differ in that you will have three attempts with the highest score being your grade.

3 Other Policies

3.1 Grading

The workshop accounts for 10% of your grade. The bare minimum is showing up, which means that this is a free letter grade if you're willing to ask for help or work with your peers. Quizzes and test reviews are graded by Canvas upon completion and not by me. I grade the worksheets based on completion and effort. You don't need to get everything correct for a perfect score, but if you turn in garbage or get too many incorrect, it will be marked as incomplete. For example, "What month is Christmas in?" with the answer "Tomato soup with crackers." is complete and utter garbage; answers so bad that they're not even wrong and entirely fail to even answer the question are garbage.

I will leave you feedback on the problems you got wrong; to get a regrade, please come to my office hours or email me so that we may meet. You should complete these during class or during my office hours for best results. Sometimes I will assign specific problems. Otherwise, I will randomly decide to grade a handful of problems, usually the most difficult ones. I will try to release solutions to the problems that I decide to grade; if you have questions or want to see others worked out, please come to my office hours.

3.2 Late Work

I will grade late submissions at no penalty the first time, but for future late work, I will tack on a small amount of extra work so that it is fair to your peers who turned in their work on time. This might be in the form of an extra problem or asking you to explain something; repeated late submissions will require more work on your part. If you cannot resubmit the work on Canvas, send it to me via email or come to office hours and I'll update the grade by hand.

4 How to Solve Problems

The hardest part about solving problems is often the first step. To motivate figuring out how to take that first step, if nothing else, remember this: almost everything in this course comes down to arithmetic, factoring, or the quadratic formula; the trick is to figure out how to get there. The first thing you should do is to write down what you do know or recognize, listing facts you remember or stating the obvious. This is apparently called "rough draft thinking" and you should always do it! Once you start, more often than not, the way forward will become clear.