

Precalculus

Math 120 A - Summer 2017

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Lectures: MWF 12:00-1:00 PM, GUG 204. On the website there is a tentative schedule of what chapters a lecture will cover. You are responsible for knowing what goes on in lecture.

Quiz Section: TTh 12:00-1:00 PM, GUG 204. Discussing homework problems and working through examples in small groups are the main purposes of quiz section. You should come with questions prepared.

Office Hours: TBA.

Purpose: This course is designed to prepare you for learning calculus. This course will help you develop the skills and stamina necessary to solve lengthy, multi-step problems, involving a variety of pre-calculus mathematical concepts. We will also work on developing algebraic sophistication, and confidence. There will be a lot of practice with many mathematical methods.

We'll cover a large amount of material. You have likely seen much of the content before, but many topics will be new. The course is meant to train you to deal with long and difficult problems, so even when the concepts are familiar, the problems may still be challenging.

Textbook: The required text is the *Precalculus*, 2016 edition, (the 11-12 edition is ok) by D.H. Collingwood, K.D. Prince, and M.M. Conroy. Printed copies are available at Professional Copy & Print, and also at EZ Copy N Print, both of which are on the ave. The textbook is **not available at the UW bookstore**. The printed copy is not required. It is freely available online (linked from the class website).

Homework: All homework for this course is done online using a new service: hamstr.org. Since it is the first time using this service, it will be free. Don't hesitate to get in touch if there are any technical difficulties.

Homework will be due twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays at midnight. There may sometimes be more than one assignment due on a given day. It is very important to write up clear solutions for your homework. These will be required in tests and quizzes, and homework is the perfect place to practice showing all your work.

Late homework will not be allowed. However, I will 'drop' 10% of homework points, so you can miss 10% of the points without penalty. This should take care of illness, accident, travel, and technical glitches with the online homework.

Grades:

- Homework: 15%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Midterms (2):
 - (lower grade): 20%
 - (higher grade): 25%
- Final: 30%

Grades are curved, so that your course grade will reflect your performance relative to the rest of the class rather than a fixed percentage scheme. Historically, the median grade in Math 120 is in the range of 2.5-3.0. If you get at least 95% overall, you will receive a 4.0. If you get at least 70% overall, you will receive at least a 2.0.

A grade of 2.5 or better in Math 120 is required to move on to Math 124. You will *probably* need to average about 70% or better on exams and quizzes to achieve this.

Exams:

- Midterm 1: Thursday July 13th (approximately chapters 1-7)
- Midterm 2: Thursday August 1st (approximately chapters 1-14)
- Final Exam:
 - Part 1: Thursday August 17th
 - Part 2: Friday August 18th

Notesheet for exams: A single **handwritten** 8.5×11 or smaller sheet of notes is allowed during exams. You may write on both sides. You may not print or photocopy any part of a notesheet.

Calculators for exams: Graphing calculators are **not** allowed on exams or quizzes. The required calculator for this course is the Texas Instruments **TI-30X IIS**, which may be purchased from many places for well under \$20. The UW bookstore carries the orange ones, which they will buy back at the end of quarters, but any color is acceptable.

Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes during the quarter, each one 20 minutes long. They will take place every Thursday during quiz section, except on the first and last weeks of instruction, or exam days. Each will be graded out of 20 points. The lowest quiz will be dropped. The focus of this class is solving longer multi-step problems, and the quizzes will reflect this. Each quiz will be one long word problem. This will give you an opportunity to work through a long problem and receive feedback.

Quiz or Exam absence: If you miss a midterm or quiz due to some unavoidable, sudden event (such as a sudden illness, a family emergency, a traffic accident, etc..) you should contact me as soon as possible. If you cannot take a midterm due to a legitimate pre-existing conflict (for example, a religious observance) you must contact me well in advance to make alternative arrangements. If you miss the final without advance notice you cannot make it up. You will not be allowed to take the final early.

Disability Services Office: The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity, and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206-543-6450/V, 206-543-6452/TTY, or dso@u.washington.edu.