Math-19 Homework Rules

1). Written homework must be done in pencil (no pen!) and must be submitted on 8×11-inch college rule, pad, or graph paper. Do not print out the homework assignment sheet and attempt to cram all of your work onto it.

2). Treat your written Math homework like you would an English paper. In particular:

   a). It should be neat, organized, and legible. In fact, it is suggested that you start with a rough draft and then make a final draft once you are satisfied with your answers.

   b). Do not rip your assignment out of a spiral notebook.

   c). Be sure that your name is on the first page, and that all pages are stapled, in order. Do not creatively corner-fold the sheets.

   d). Problems must be in order.

3). All work must be shown for full credit. Answers with no supporting work receive zero credit. Work that I cannot follow will result in reduced or no credit.

4). Always present answers in exact form; do not give decimal answers unless the problem specifically asks for answers in that form. The presence of decimal answers when not asked for will result in zero credit for the entire problem.

5). It is OK to work in teams; however, make sure that the work that you turn in reflects your ability to do the problems. Remember, your team will not be able to help you during exams. Math is a very lonely subject!

6). When factoring a polynomial via inspection, just write down the factoring:

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + 3x + 2 &= 0 \\ (x+2)(x+1) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

   Don't draw the little cross/diamond and arrange the numbers in the slots like you learned in high school — that is OK for your rough draft, but just show me the factoring in the final draft.

7). When doing algebraic manipulation, each line in your answer should embody a single step. Don't combine steps like this:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 3x+6 &=& 0 \\ -6 &=& -6 \\ \hline & 3 & \\ x &=& -2 \end{array}$$

Instead, do the following:

$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 6 &= 0 \\ 3x &= -6 \\ x &= -2 \end{aligned}$$

8). If I see anything resembling this:

$$\frac{\not{x} + y}{\not{x}} = 1 + y$$

or this:

$$(a + b)^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

anywhere in one of your answers then you get an automatic zero for that problem.

9). I will always try to be available to you when you need my help; however, please do not tell me that you don't understand anything and expect me to repeat the previous lectures. What you need to do is do the reading, try the examples and some odd numbered practice problems, then come to me and show me a particular problem that is giving you trouble. Tell me how you have tried to approach the problem.

10). I reserve the right to deduct 10% from your score if these rules are not followed.