

MATH 104 - Finite Mathematics

Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Joash Geteregechi, *Open Hours:* Mon, Fri 12.00 - 01.00 pm, or by [appt.](#)

Room and Time: Williams Hall 317, MWF 11:00 - 11:50 am.

Course Website: [Click here.](#)

About the Course

Course Description

Introduction to differential calculus, mathematics of finance, and linear programming. Additional topics at the instructor's discretion. Intended for students in the School of Business.

Course Format

This course is centered around problem solving. The majority of class time will be spent working on problems individually and collaboratively, sharing your ideas/solutions, asking and investigating questions. Research shows that some of the deepest learning comes out of analyzing misconceptions and methods that don't work, so we will strive to make failures productive. I may give mini-lectures to set the context for the class activities, but my main role will be to support and facilitate your engagement with the mathematics during explorations. This course will place a lot of emphasis on real-life applications of mathematics and will require you to create your own mathematics problems (problem posing) to demonstrate understanding of the concepts learned.

Prerequisites and Credits

Prerequisites include math placement in group 3 or higher, math placement assessment score of 46 or greater, or completion of [MATH 10000](#) or [MATH 18000](#) with a grade of C- or better. (F,S,Y).

Workload Expectation:

This is a 4-credit course. Credit is earned at Ithaca College in credit hours as measured by the Carnegie unit. The Carnegie unit is defined as one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of assignments outside the classroom, for a period of 15 weeks for each unit (credit).

Meeting Times

Day	Room/Hall	Time
Monday	Williams Hall 317	11:00 - 11:50 am
Wednesday	Williams Hall 317	11:00 - 11:50 am
Thursday	Williams Hall 317	10:50 - 11:40 am
Friday	Williams Hall 317	11:00 - 11:50 am

Student Learning Objectives

A central goal of this course is for you to develop an understanding of the tools used to solve real-life problems that businesses face on a day-to-day basis. These problems include making decisions on production policies that would maximize profits, deciding on shipment plans that would minimize costs, among other. You will also learn to use ideas from calculus (e.g., functions) to model and solve problems arising from various business situations. Finally, you will learn how to manage your personal finances by delving into the ideas of interest rates as they operate in investments (e.g., share deposits, certificates of deposits) and borrowing situations (e.g., car loans and mortgages). More specific, after taking this course, you should be able to:

- Decide on optimal production and shipment plans for companies.
- Use ideas from functions to model and solve problems arising in business situations.
- Critique various investment and borrowing/lending models offered by financial institutions based on the nature of their interest rates.
- Compare and contrast various mortgages plans and retirement saving plans.
- Use appropriate technology to solve complex problems involving financial planning.

Course Resources

Textbooks

There is no textbook to purchase for this course. For the most part, we will use the coursepack (notes) available at <https://jmochogi.quarto.pub/fmathematics/>.

Computing:

- **Excel:** We will use MS excel for some parts of the course. No prior knowledge of this software is required.
- **Calculators:** You may need to have a calculator to perform quick computations. You may use the online calculator tools such as [Geogebra](#) or [Desmos](#). Note that during Class quizzes, you will have limited access to digital calculators so you may need to use a physical one. Class quizzes will be closed book but exams will be open-book and open-notes. Mobile phone calculators are not allowed.

Assessment

Your learning will be assessed in a variety of ways including Attendance and Participation (AP), CPA's, Labs, Problem Sets (PS), Projects, Exams, and a final Portfolio (takes the place of a final exam). Below are the details on these components.

Attendance and Participation (AP)

You're expected to attend all classes and participate during class discussions. Consistent attendance and participation are strong indicators of success in MAT 104. You will be responsible for all course material, announcements, quizzes, and exams made in class, whether you attended that day's class or not. I may post the announcements and materials on Canvas and/or send them out as emails. If you anticipate needing to miss more than **four class sessions**, please make an [appointment](#) with me to discuss any restrictions on your availability early in the semester so we can find ways for you to participate and be successful in the course. Your attendance & participation will be gauged based on the following metrics:

- Punctuality to class and number of classes attended
- Preparedness for class (you will generally be considered prepared if you do the CPAs)
- Level of engagement: Includes working collaboratively with others, sharing your thoughts during class discussions, and asking/answering questions.
- Contributing to online collaboration work and discussion forums.

Please check the college attendance policy on the [college-wide policies](#) section.

Class Preparation Assignments (CPAs)

You will read a short part of the course pack and/or watch a video in preparation for certain classes. After reading and/or watching, you will have a short assignment to complete in canvas. CPAs are an important part of your learning because they prepare you to participate in class meaningfully and to ask important questions to support your deeper understanding of the material.

Note: CPAs will generally be graded for completion and effort. From time to time, there will be one question on the CPA that will be graded for accuracy. This question is meant to gauge the extent to which you understood the material on your own and answers may be discussed in class.

Class Quizzes

There will be a short quiz almost every week (usually Fridays) during the semester. The quizzes are meant to keep you up to speed with the material of the week. The quizzes will be closed-book and closed-notes.

Voice Threads

You will be required to create short audio/video files every week to share your thoughts on a particular topic/concept. I will provide feedback in form of audio/video as well as annotations on your work. In some cases, students will be able to see other students feedback and can give feedback in a respectful way. More details about this assessment will be provided in class.

Homework

Out of class homework will be assigned every two weeks. The homework problems will be more non routine and may require you to think critically about the material. You will be required to submit your work on Canvas. Homework will be graded for accuracy and you will have about two weeks to finish and submit your work. The most important advice I can give on this is to start early and work on the problems in small chunks. If you get stuck, ask for help from me or your peers. See the course support section for more information on where to get help.

Problem Posing

There will be a Problem Posing (PP) assignment at the end of every chapter. Problem posing is an opportunity for you to reflect on the material you have learned and to put it in use by creating problems of your own. You are welcome to use the problems done in class as a guide in creating your own problems. If you use problems from external sources (such as the internet) as a basis for generating your own problems, be sure to disclose the source.

Midterm Exams

There will be three mid-term exams during the semester. Each mid-term exam will take about 50 minutes to complete and may draw partly from various student presentations. In order to do well on the test, you should pay close attention to student presentations even if it is not your group presenting. If something is not clear to you, please ask follow-up questions during the presentation or on Canvas discussion board. Information about the areas to be tested in the midterm exams will be provided before every exam. I will provide review problems ahead of time for you to complete out of class and then come to class ready to share your solutions with other students. These problems will not be graded but feedback will be provided during class presentations. Any errors that you make will be great opportunities to learn.

Projects

There will be one major group project for this course this semester. Your group will be given an opportunity to choose a topic from a wide range of topics. You will have time in class to meet and discuss issues regarding your project before you present and submit it. During these times, I will provide you with feedback that you will use to improve your project in order to earn the best possible grade.

Final Portfolio

The final exam will consist of a portfolio with the following:

- An oral presentation: you will be given a problem to work on and write a clear solution, submit to canvas, then come in for a 15-20 min meeting to explain your work.
- A one-page concept map illustrating the main ideas learned in the course and the relationships between them. I will provide examples of concept maps from other courses.
- An essay (600 to 800 words) reflecting on your main takeaways from the course and how you would apply the knowledge gained in your field or other real-life situations.

Grading Policy

Your final letter grade in the course will be weighted by category as follows:

Category	Percentage
Attendance and Participation	5%
Class Preparation Assignments	10%
Problem Posing	10%
Class Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exams	20%
Projects	10%
Voice Threads	10%
Homework	10%
Final Oral Presentation	15%

The final letter grade will be determined based on the following thresholds:

Letter Grade	Final Course Grade
A	≥ 93
A-	90 - 92.99
B+	87 - 89.99
B	83 - 86.99
B-	80 - 82.99
C+	77 - 79.99
C	73 - 76.99
C-	70 - 72.99
D+	67 - 69.99
D	63 - 66.99
D-	60 - 62.99
F	< 60

Course policies

Academic honesty

The point is very simple - you should not cheat. You should not present “someone” else’s work as your own.

Abide by the following guidelines:

- **Collaboration:**

- Work that is not assigned as a collaborative assignment should not be completed collaboratively. This does not mean you should not seek support from peers. If you seek help from your peers, be sure that you write your own solutions, otherwise the work will be similar and flagged for cheating. Submitting similar work will be considered a violation of the academic integrity policy by all students involved.
- For team assignments, you may collaborate freely within your team. Each group will submit one document contained agreed upon responses. No multiple file submissions.
- On individual assignments you may not directly share work with another student in this class, and on team assignments you may not directly share work with another team in this class.
- **Online resources:** In this century, the internet is a go to place for many things. While much of the information on the internet is useful, I expect that you will use it responsibly. The course policy is that you may use online resources (e.g., [StackOverflow](#), [Wolfram Alpha](#), etc.) but you must explicitly cite where you obtained any solutions you directly use (or use as inspiration).
- **Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):** Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT should be treated as other online resources. There are two guiding principles that govern how you can use AI in this course:
 - *Cognitive dimension:* Using AI tools should make you more efficient and productive rather than hampering your ability to think clearly and critically.
 - *Ethical dimension:* Students using AI should be transparent about their use and make sure it aligns with academic integrity. You are ultimately responsible for the work you turn in; it should reflect your understanding of the course content. AI is an integral part of this course and we will practice using generative AI tools responsibly without losing sight of the learning objectives.
 - **AI tools:** If you use AI in any way for course assignments, be sure to disclose it in your submission. Follow [these guidelines](#) for citing AI-generated content.
 - **AI warning** AI-generated content may be inaccurate and even misleading in some cases. You will likely be tempted to use AI to write essays for this class but be warned that doing so is akin to copying and pasting someone else's work. I suggest you use AI only to check your grammar or to generate an initial document that you should then sit down and edit to make sure it meets the need. Your experiences in this course will be unique and AI does not have any knowledge about these so it cannot generate a great essay.

If you are unsure if the use of a particular resource complies with the academic honesty policy, please contact your instructor.

Late Work

The due date & time for all assignments will be posted on Canvas and/or emailed out and/or announced in class. To enable me to prepare for class meetings and give you feedback, I will not accept late work except under extreme circumstances. If you know that you won't be able to turn in an assignment on time, reach out to me in writing (email) at least one day before the due date to discuss your options. Note that there will be no extensions on CPA's.

Mobile devices & Other Technologies

This class allows use of technology devices (e.g., computers, tablets, etc.) only for purposes of the course. Such purpose includes taking notes, completing OneNote collaborative activities, among others. However, there will be moments (e.g., brief interactive discussion, completing paper activities) when I require that students put away (or turn off) their technology devices. Use of these devices for purposes other than the one for the course is prohibited. Research on this matter shows that it distracts you as well as other students in class. Two violations per week will result in a 0 score on the next attendance and participation grade. Persistent violation may necessitate further action to prevent you from distracting other students.

Teams

This class will mostly run through small group work (teams). You will be randomly assigned to a team at the start of the semester. About midway into the semester, I will switch people teams based partly on my professional judgement. I will allow you to suggest members you would like to work with but there are no guarantees that you will get grouped with all members of your choice. I generally seek to have mixed ability teams and to ensure that everyone has a chance to work with different people. It is expected that every team member will contribute equally on team assignments.

Getting Support

There are various resources available to help you succeed in this course. Should you feel like you are struggling too much, please don't hesitate to reach out to me so we can discuss possible ways forward. Below are some academic support services available to you.

Open Hours

I will be available during open hours (Mon 12.00 - 01.00 pm) to answer questions or concerns that you may have in the course. You can simply walk in during the stated time above. More times may be available but you will need to check my schedule on [this link](#). Open hours may

be held in-person or virtually depending on circumstances of the day. Below are the zoom link and passcode for virtual meetings:

Zoom Link: [click here](#)

Passcode: 850 424

Math Tutoring Sessions

The mathematics department is committed to the success of all students enrolled in mathematics courses. Free one-on-one support for your mathematics coursework is available during select daytime and evening hours Monday-Friday at the Mathematics Room (Williams Hall 209). The Mathematics Room is staffed by mathematics faculty and vetted students. Student tutors offer support to fellow students in courses numbered 200 and below while math faculty offer support in any of the math courses. For more information and the schedule, please visit the [Math Support Center](#).

Tutoring and Academic Enrichment Services

As a supplement to faculty advising and office hours, Tutoring and Academic Enrichment Services offers exceptional peer resources free of charge. Learning Coaches provide content-specific peer tutoring in a variety of courses. Peer Success Coaches mentor students who wish to develop collegiate-level academic and social engagement skills. To access these courses and for more information, please visit the [Center for Student Success](#).

Writing Center

The Writing Center aims to help students from all disciplines, backgrounds, and experiences to develop greater independence as writers. We are committed to helping students see writing as central to critical and creative thinking. The physical location in Smiddy 107 will not be open to clients. For more information and scheduling appointments please visit the [writing center website](#).

Tips for Success

Here are a few basic suggestions for how to succeed in this course:

Keep up with Homework

It is absolutely essential that you understand how to solve the assigned homework problems/exercises and, more importantly, how and why the skills and techniques presented in the course are used in solving the problems/exercises. I suggest that you begin working on the how as soon as possible. Do not pile your homework or work near the deadline. The advantage of getting the homework done on time is that you will get timely feedback that will help you understand the material better and hence do well in other assessment categories such as exams.

Attend Class

As noted earlier, attendance is a critical part of your success in this course. You should try to attend every class because it is during class time that we will delve deeper into the course material and practice with applications.

Stay Caught Up

Most concepts in this course build on each other cumulatively and you need to stay on top of the material at every stage. If you are having difficulty, don't expect that the problem will take care of itself and disappear later. Contact me immediately and discuss the problem.

Collaborate with Peers

Many students benefit from sharing their work with others or by having their work questioned by their peers. You should attempt homework problems ahead of time by yourself and then note down any difficulties/questions that you can discuss with your peers. Even if you have no difficulties, you may still learn different and perhaps more efficient ways of solving the same problem during collaborative work. Below are some of the ways through which you can do this: - **Canvas Discussion Forums & One Note Collaboration Space** - You can post questions and answer others' questions here. I encourage you to scan hand-written work (if necessary) and upload it alongside your question so people can see how you are thinking.

- **Zoom sessions** – If you cannot meet in person, you can initiate Zoom sessions for collaborating. Zoom whiteboards are available to write on or you may simply have discussions. You can record these for later playback. If you want to invite me to your Zoom session, please send me an email with the link ahead of time and I will let you know if I am available to join.

College-wide Policies

Attendance Policy

Students at Ithaca College are expected to attend all classes, and they are responsible for work missed during any absence from class. At the beginning of each semester, instructors must provide the students in their courses with written guidelines regarding possible penalties for failure to attend class. These guidelines may vary from course to course but are subject to the following conditions:

- In accordance with Federal Law, students with a disability documented through Student Accessibility Services (SAS) may require reasonable accommodations to ensure equitable access. A student with an attendance accommodation, who misses a scheduled course time due to a documented disability, must be provided an equivalent opportunity to make up missed time and/or coursework within a reasonable time-frame. An accommodation that affects attendance is not an attendance waiver and no accommodation can fundamentally alter a course requirement. If a faculty member thinks an attendance-related accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration, concerns and potential alternatives should be discussed with SAS.
- In accordance with New York State law, students who miss class due to their religious beliefs shall be excused from class or examinations on that day. The faculty member is responsible for providing the student with an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement that the student may have missed. Any such work is to be completed within a reasonable time frame, as determined by the faculty member.
- Any student who misses class due to a family or individual health emergency or to a required appearance in a court of law shall be excused. If the emergency is prolonged or if the student is incapacitated, the student or a family member/legal guardian should report the absence to the Dean of Students or the Dean of the academic school where the student's program is housed. Students may consider a leave of absence, medical leave of absence, selected course withdrawals, etc., if they miss a significant portion of classwork. (Note: Graduate students may not take a leave of absence.)
- A student may be excused to participate in local, state, or federal elections. The student is responsible to make up any work that is missed due to the absence. Any such work is to be completed within a reasonable time frame, as determined by the faculty member.

A student may be excused for participation in College-authorized co-curricular and extracurricular activities if, in the instructor's judgment, this does not impair the specific student's or the other students' ability to succeed in the course. For all absences except those due to religious beliefs, the course instructor has the right to determine if the number of absences has been excessive in view of the nature of the class that was missed and the stated attendance policy.

Students should notify their instructors as soon as possible of any anticipated absences.

Student Accessibility Services

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation will be provided to students with documented disabilities on a case-by-case basis. Students must register with [Student Accessibility Services](#) and provide appropriate documentation to Ithaca College before any academic adjustment will be provided. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, so timely contact with Student Accessibility Services is encouraged. To discuss accommodations or the accommodation process, students should schedule to meet with a SAS specialist. 607-274-1005 | sas@ithaca.edu.

Mental Health statement

The Ithaca College [Center for Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) promotes and fosters the academic, personal, and interpersonal development of Ithaca College students by providing short-term individual, group, and relationship counseling, crisis intervention, educational programs to the campus community, and consultation for faculty, staff, parents, and students. Their team of licensed and licensed-eligible professionals value inclusivity, and they are dedicated to creating a diverse, accessible, and welcoming environment that is safe and comfortable for all those they serve and with whom they interact. CAPS sees students in-person at their offices in the Hammond Health building (side entrance), but Telehealth meetings through Zoom can be arranged in some circumstances. Staff in the office will answer questions by phone at 607-274-3136; please leave a voicemail if you do not reach a live person. You can also reach the office via email at counseling@ithaca.edu. CAPS hours remain Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After-hours connections to a live counselor are available by calling the CAPS number and following the prompts.

In the event I suspect you need additional support, expect that I will express to you my concerns. It is not my intent to know the details of what might be troubling you, but simply to let you know I am concerned and that help, if needed, is available. Remember, getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do.

Academic Integrity

The College is an academic community, which values academic integrity and takes seriously its responsibility for upholding academic honesty. All members of the academic community have an obligation to uphold high intellectual and ethical standards. All forms of dishonesty including cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable. Failure to appropriately cite material used in a paper is plagiarism. The minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a zero for the test or paper in question. Referral to college judiciaries is also possible. For more information on academic integrity and academic dishonesty, please refer to the [Student Handbook](#), the College Catalog and the [Code of Student Conduct](#) and Related Policies or ask your instructor.

Title IX

At Ithaca College, we believe that every individual has the right to be treated with respect and dignity and we support the creation and maintenance of a safe and positive living and learning environment. Students who experience sexual violence (including dating violence, stalking and sexual assault), sexual harassment, or discrimination based on gender or sexual identity) are encouraged to report their experience to the Title IX Coordinator, lkoenig@ithaca.edu to explore formal and informal reporting options, and explore the support and resources available. The Title IX Coordinator will work with you to determine the best way to proceed and enhance the safety of our community. For more information go to: <https://www.ithaca.edu/share>.

Information shared in class assignments, class discussions, and at public events do not constitute an official disclosure, and faculty and staff do not have to report these to the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty and staff should be sure that access to campus and community resources related to sexual misconduct are available to students in the case these subjects do arise. Any other disclosure to faculty and staff can be reported to the Title IX Coordinator.

Academic Advising Center

Students are asked to consult with their faculty advisor, or the advising contact within their school, for all advising matters. Faculty advisors will be able to assist students with most advising questions, or they may collaborate with the dean's office for more complicated matters. Students can find the name of their assigned faculty advisor in Homer or in Degree Works.

Diversity and Inclusion

Ithaca College values diversity because it enriches our community and the myriad experiences that characterize an Ithaca College education. Diversity encompasses multiple dimensions, including but not limited to race, culture, nationality, ethnicity, religion, ideas, beliefs, geographic origin, class, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, disability, and age. We are dedicated to addressing current and past injustices and promoting excellence and equity. Ithaca College continually strives to build an inclusive and welcoming community of individuals with diverse talents and skills from a multitude of backgrounds who are committed to civility, mutual respect, social justice, and the free and open exchange of ideas. We commit ourselves to change, growth, and actions that embrace diversity as an integral part of the educational experience and of the community we create. Please learn more about Ithaca College's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion: <https://www.ithaca.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Important dates

- **Aug 26:** Classes begin, Request S/D/F Option
- **Sep 01:** Last day to Drop/add a course
- **Sep 02:** No classes (Labor Day)
- **Sep 13:** Last day to request S/D/F Option
- **Sep 27:** Last Day to Withdraw with “W”, Revoke S/D/F Option
- **Oct 08:** Project 1 Presentations
- **Oct 09:** Exam 1 (in-class)
- **Oct 10:** Exam 1 take-home due
- **Oct 13:** Midterm grades available online
- **Oct 17-18:** Fall break - No classes
- **Nov 01:** Last Day to Withdraw with “W”
- **Nov 15:** Exam 2 (in-class)
- **Nov 16:** Exam 2 take-home due
- **Nov 23-Dec 1:** Thanksgiving Break - No classes
- **Dec 06:** Project 2 presentations
- **Dec 11:** Last day of classes
- **Dec 11:** Final portfolio due

Assignment deadlines are listed on the course schedule and in Canvas. Class ends on April 24, there is no final exam.

For more important dates, see the full [Ithaca College Calendar](#).