

**MTH 299-005 TRANSITIONS
SPRING 2022 SYLLABUS**

Instructor:	Fan Yang
Lectures:	MT 5:00PM–6:20PM online
Teaching Assistant:	Tristan Wellsfilbert
Recitations:	Th 5:00PM–6:20PM
Instructor's Email:	yangfa31@msu.edu
Instructor's Phone:	+1(213)610-3760
Teaching Assistant's Email:	wellsfil@msu.edu
Instructor's Zoom Office Hours:	MT 4:00PM-5:00PM and by appointment

MW Lectures Zoom Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/99497608408>

Zoom Password: 069427

OneNote link for the course note:

https://michiganstate-my.sharepoint.com/:o:/g/personal/yangfa31_msu_edu/EmUCOMjHtWBNGLnFjXh1JeQBvtXwA44nTs2A1Mwby916nQ?e=Qp4Lyt

Recommended Textbook. How to Think Like a Mathematician by Kevin Houston, Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13 978-0-511-50645-1 eBook (EBL) 2009, The text will be available online:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/r1jgibhbfiroaus/how%2Bto%2Bthink%2Blike%2Ba%2Bmathematician.pdf>

Technology Components.

- **Zoom:** Lectures and recitations will take place via Zoom. All online lectures will be recorded and available for watching. Three midterm exams are supposed to be online during Thursday's recitations, but the final exam will be take-home open-book exam submitted electronically. Office hours will be online.
- **D2L:** The central hub of this course. Notifications, recorded lectures, links to OneNote, Gradescope and Dropbox folder will be posted there.
- **OneNote:** The course note will be posted on Microsoft OneNote.
- **Gradescope:** Homeworks must be submitted through Gradescope. You should have already received an email which contains information regarding the enrollment process.

Technology availability.

- The technologies we will use for this course include Zoom (active use for synchronized lectures and recitations) and OneNote (for course note). For international students: please check availability in your current location and notify your instructor about possible restrictions to look for alternatives.
- **Materials:** all course materials, except course note (OneNote), but including solutions to sample tests and tests will be uploaded to D2L.
- MTH299-005 lectures are [synchronous](#) Zoom meetings during the scheduled class time in Michigan (US Eastern Standard Time (EST)). If you are abroad with a technology or timezone issue, please contact your instructor for possible accommodation.

Submission modality and recommended hardware. Homework assignments will be posted and submitted through Gradescope: <https://www.gradescope.com/> Besides a mere convenience for grading, it provides an opportunity for the grader to insert (sticky notes or handwritten) comments right into your work. Please, arrange your work into a single pdf file (most of modern smartphones have this built-in scan option).

Internet connection suggestions. Browser/mobile support for D2L:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Information about internet connection access, including companies offering students free or reduced cost internet:

<https://remote.msu.edu/learning/internet.html>

Learning Continuity Statement. If a student will unfortunately become unable to attend classes for an extended period of time, note that there is no penalty for missing approximately 25% of the course work (one test out of three and/or 3 HW assignments out of 13). This amounts approximately to missing three weeks of classes. It is however a student responsibility to learn missing material using the textbook and posted course materials. Please, notify your instructor at your earliest opportunity about your circumstances; exceptions are possible on case-by-case scenario. Note, please, that no student should miss the final exam.

Course Continuity Statement. If your instructor will be required to be absent for an extended period of time and will be unable to perform his functions even remotely, the department will do its best to find a temporary or permanent substitution (most possible the instructor of another course section). In case of severe disruptions of the course delivery, modifications of assessment will be done.

Course Content. The above textbook is only a guide; actual content of the course can differ substantially from the content of the textbook. The most important part of this course is student's individual and collective work. Delivering of the material will be in accordance with the following scheme: Standard 1h20m long lecture on Monday; 40m lecture on Wednesday followed by a discussion ("chat") session in which students are expected to actively participate—it will be free discussion of selected problems.

Tests: There will be three online midterms arranged during recitation classes on Thursdays.

Every week a homework will be assigned via Gradescope; selected 4-5 problems will be graded.

Thursday's classes are recitations run by the Teaching Assistant. Although no grades is reserved for recitations, they are extremely important for your success in studies; problems of recitations will be close to those in homework and tests, and students may also score participation points for their recitation activities.

Students are expected to attend every class either in person or via Zoom and are responsible for all material covered in class and in the homeworks.

Grade calculation. The components of the course will contribute the following amounts of the final grade:

Homework	20% (ten best; 2% each + bonus problems)
In class exams	51% (17 % each; final, if higher, will replace the lowest grade)
Final exam	24%
Participation	5%

The grade scale will be **no harsher** than the following:

4.0	$90 \leq x$
3.5	$85 \leq x < 90$
3.0	$80 \leq x < 85$
2.5	$75 \leq x < 80$
2.0	$70 \leq x < 75$
1.5	$65 \leq x < 70$
1.0	$60 \leq x < 65$
0	$x < 60$

Your graded works can be found on Gradescope. You can discuss your grades with your instructor after getting back your work: either at the end of a lecture or during office hours. Your grades will be available via D2L.

Homework.

- Homework will be assigned each week, and will be due on **Sunday at midnight**. Homework will contain exercises on topics covered in the corresponding week.
- You are encouraged to collaborate on homework, and opportunities to do so will be provided during the recitations and via Zoom class session. However, your submitted solutions should be written independently in your own words.
- Four to five problems from each homework set will be randomly selected to be graded, and each of these questions will be graded for a total of 20.
- Your lowest three (out of a total of 13) homework scores will be dropped when determining your final grade. These are to allow for missed assignments and other external factors which may affect your ability to complete homework.
- No late homework will be accepted, instead we will drop three homeworks with the lowest scores.
- You may earn bonus points for the problems marked by a star (*). They are difficult problems, often requiring a lot of effort to be solved, and they are optional. You will be awarded 1 bonus point for each completely solved starred problem.

Exams.

- There will be three 50 minute long midterm exams and one take-home final exam.
- **(Tentative!)** Midterm exams will take place during recitation classes on Thursdays; they will be proctored at the assigned time via Zoom, so a reliable internet connection with video capability is required during these exams.

- The take-home final exam is an open-book exam and will be available to take the time of your choosing on 05/02.
- Your lowest midterm exam score will be replaced by your final exam score, if this will raise your course grade.
- No notes, calculators, phones or internet correspondence will be allowed during midterm exams, other than that required to access Zoom and the exam itself.
- No make up exams will be given unless for a valid reason which is agreed [in advance](#). Instead, a missing midterm exam will be treated as the lowest score exam and its grade will be replaced by your final exam grade. Missing more than one midterm will significant impact your grade!

General Advice.

- You are required to attend class regularly. Before attending the lecture, you should read the relevant section of the textbook.
- Be attentive and participate in class. Ask questions, and be prepared to ask and answer questions and to work with your classmates.
- You should spend at least two to three hours per class on homework and on reading the book, lecture notes and other resources.
- Make use of office hours. These are times at which the instructor is available to offer additional help. If you cannot make the scheduled office hours please request an appointment via email.

Important dates.

First class	Monday 1/10
Martin Luther King Jr. Day – no class	Monday 1/17
Last day to drop course with refund	Friday 2/4
Midterm 1	Thursday 2/17 (TBC)
Last day to drop with no grade reported	Wednesday 3/2
Midterm 2	Thursday 3/17 (TBC)
Spring break – no class	Monday 3/7 - Friday 3/11
Midterm 3	Thursday 4/14 (TBC)
Final exam	Monday 05/02

Academic Honesty. We believe strongly that all students should have equal resources and opportunity during proctored assessments. Therefore, in addition to the University academic dishonesty policy, the Department of Mathematics has a list of class policies to help promote academic honesty and fairness. The following list applies to all proctored assignments.

- There is no communication allowed between students or between a student and a third person. If you have a question you need to address an instructor/TA in the course.
- Students are not permitted to use any additional devices / websites / tabs during the proctored assignment unless the assignment explicitly states otherwise.
- Students must have their MSU ID (or other photo ID) to take a proctored assignment.
- Students must comply with all reasonable requests of the proctors.

- Bathroom breaks are discouraged and they take away from your time on the assignment. Please plan ahead and use the bathroom beforehand.

This list is by no means exhaustive. Students who violate any of the class policies may receive a penalty grade determined based on the severity of the action by the instructor and course supervisor.

As mentioned above, you are encouraged to collaborate with classmates on homework assignments, but must write up your solutions in your own words. Furthermore, use of internet sources such as Chegg is strictly prohibited. If you work on an assignment with other students, you must give credit to your collaborators. If you have questions about whether you are adhering to this policy, please ask your instructor.

Technology issues. We strongly recommend students to complete assignments significantly before the deadline so that any possible technical issues will not be a concern. If you are having extreme technical issues, please record the event on your cell phone for evidence, including your attempts to fix the problem. Try to collect as much documentation as possible (such as service reports from your internet provider or <https://servicestatus.msu.edu/>) to help support your claim. Typically no extensions can be made; however, these are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Many times doing a Google search for a specific issue works well. However if you are having a problem you cannot find the answer to please consider reaching out for support:

- MSU Support (usually a good place to start) – <https://tech.msu.edu/support/help/>
- D2l – <https://help.d2l.msu.edu/>
- Zoom – <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>
- Piazza – <https://piazza.com/support/contact>
- OneNote – <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/onenote>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation (VISA) form. Please present this form to your instructor at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (quiz, exam, etc.). Requests for accommodations with less than two weeks notice may not be granted. Requests for accommodations with less than two days notice typically cannot be granted.

Grief Absence. The Mathematics faculty and staff work hard to be sensitive and to accommodate the bereavement process of a student who has lost a family member or who is experiencing emotional distress from a similar tragedy so that the student is not academically disadvantaged in their class. The Mathematics Department relies on the University's Grief Absence Policy to alert us of when it is appropriate to grant additional accommodations. According to the University's Grief Absence Policy, it is the responsibility of the student to:

- notify the Associate Dean or designee of their college of the need for a grief absence in a timely manner, but no later than one week from the students initial knowledge of the situation,
- provide appropriate verification of the grief absence as specified by the Associate Dean, and
- complete all missed work as determined in consultation with the instructor.

It is the responsibility of the Associate Dean or designee to:

- determine with the student the expected period of absence it is expected that some bereavement processes may be more extensive than others depending on individual circumstances,
- notify the faculty that the student will be absent, and
- receive verification of the authenticity of a grief absence request upon the students return.