

Syllabus for Finite Mathematics (Math 170)

Spring 2012 (Jan 9 – May 2), Section 8

Department of Mathematics

University of South Carolina - Columbia

<i>Instructor</i>	Danny Rorabaugh
<i>Office</i>	LeConte (LC) 123B
<i>Office Hours</i>	Mon/Wed 11:00 - 12:00 Thu 2:30 – 3:30 pm or by appointment
<i>Email Address</i>	rorabaug@email.sc.edu
<i>Class Room</i>	LeConte (LC) 115
<i>Class Time</i>	Mon/Wed 4:40-5:55 pm

Prerequisites

The prerequisite for Finite Mathematics (Math 170) is either qualification through placement via the MPT or a grade of C or better in any math class offered at USC.

Learning Outcomes

In Math 170, students will gain mastery of topics such as linear regression, matrix algebra, optimization, logic, and probability. They will gain conceptual understanding and skills needed to solve real-world problems related to business, economics and the social sciences.

Course Materials

Your textbook package for this class is available in the bookstore for \$240. It includes the textbook listed below and an access code for WebAssign – <https://www.webassign.net> – the online system we will be using for homework. The Course ID necessary to register for our class is **sc 1183 4836**. The textbook package comes with a physical book AND an ebook, but you are only required to purchase ONE of the two for this course. Through the bookstore, you may purchase just the physical book for \$155 or just the ebook for \$80, and both options come with a WebAssign access code. If you obtained your textbook from another source, you should be able to purchase WebAssign access separately through their website for under \$30.

Textbook: *Finite Mathematics, 5th Edition*
Waner & Costenoble

Whereas homework will be completed in WebAssign, all announcements, course documents, and grades will be posted in Blackboard – <https://blackboard.sc.edu>.

A graphing calculator is necessary for this course, and should be brought to class every day. However, CAS/symbolic calculators (e.g., TI-89 and TI-92) shall be non-existent on quizzes or tests.

Grading

Grades will be regularly updated in Blackboard. Your grade will be based on attendance, online assignments, frequent quizzes, and monthly(-ish) exams. The weight designated for each is as follows:

Attendance	5%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	25%
Exams	55%

Your letter grade in the course will be given base on your final percentage in the class:

A+	[95%, 100%]	A	[90%, 95%)
B+	[85%, 90%)	B	[80%, 85%)
C+	[75%, 80%)	C	[70%, 75%)
D+	[65%, 70%)	D	[60%, 65%)
		F	[0%, 60%)

Attendance

Even though attendance only counts toward 5% of your grade, it is necessary in order to become *awesome* at the material. By standard policy, students missing more than 10% of the class meetings can have their overall grade lowered. After the third absence, each non-presence will result in a loss of 0.5 of the 5.0 percentage points allocated to attendance. Do not forget to initial the roll sheet at the end of each class session. Leaving class early counts as an absence. Your three (3) penalty-free absences should be saved for the unforeseen emergencies of life; I will not accept doctors' notes or other excuses aside from extenuating, long-term situations. I reserve the right to mark as absent anybody who is sleeping in class or is otherwise negligibly non-participatory.

Homework

Homework makes up 15% of your grade. All assignments will be completed online in WebAssign. In most cases, you will be provided with multiple attempts and problem solving resources on the problems. However, keep in mind that these resources will not be available on quizzes and tests. It is your responsibility to work through the homework problems in their entirety in order to gain mastery of the material. Students are encouraged to work together on homework, but each student must personally submit his or her own solutions. I will drop each student's lowest homework grade at the end of the course.

Quizzes

Quizzes make up 25% of your grade. There will be at least one quiz per week, usually at the beginning of class. The quizzes are intended to test you on material that has been covered in class and on homework, and to prepare you for the sorts of questions that will be on your exams. There will be no make-up quizzes. I will drop each student's lowest quiz grade at the end of the course.

Exams

Exams make up 55% of your grade. We will have three midterms (see table). There will be no make-up exams. The final exam will be on Wednesday, May 2 at 5:30 pm. By university policy, students must attend the final exam to pass the course.

<i>Exam</i>	<i>Date, Time</i>	<i>Chapters</i>
Midterm 1	Wed 2/1, 4:40 pm	1-3
Midterm 2	Wed 2/29, 4:40 pm	3-4,6
Midterm 3	Mon 4/16, 4:40 pm	6-8
Final Exam	Wed 5/2, 5:30 pm	Cumulative

Electronics in Class

No electronics are to be used in class. This includes laptops, cell phones, and media players. See <http://www.livescience.com/9556-addicted-technology.html> to understand why I will be enforcing this. Calculators, watches, pacemakers, hearing aids, etc. are obvious exceptions to this rule.

Additional Help

If you're having any trouble in the course, please visit me during my office hours (see top of syllabus). Additionally, free help is available at the Math Tutoring Center in LeConte 105 (<http://www.math.sc.edu/mathlab.html>), or you can hire somebody for private tutoring (<http://www.math.sc.edu/mathlab/private/>). More student resources are available at the Academic Centers for Excellence (<http://www.housing.sc.edu/ace/>).

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. You may discuss all assignments with others, but the work you submit must be your own. Exams are always independent tasks. Violations of this policy will be dealt with according to University guidelines. You can find a link to the University Honor Code at <http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/>. The following are examples - not a comprehensive list - of actions considered as academic dishonesty:

- Turning in work copied (whole or in part) from another student or resource (print or electronic) as your own.
- Communicating with other persons or using unauthorized resources during tests and quizzes.

Capiche?