MATH 121A, WINTER 2016

Mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty.
-Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

Course: Math 121A. Foundations of Teaching and Learning Mathematics I, TuTh 11:00am-12:20pm in AP&M B412. You should also be enrolled in the discussion section which meets on Wednesdays 5:00-5:50pm in AP&M B412.

Professor: Laura J. Stevens, AP&M 5832, 534-5864, stevens@math.ucsd.edu, http://www.math.ucsd.edu/~stevens. My office hours will be Tuesdays 12:30-1:30pm, Thursdays 9:30-10:30am, and Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm.

Goal: To help you become an effective teacher by advancing your knowledge of mathematical content and pedagogy.

Textbook: No text is required.

Attendance: Attendance is required, and attendance and participation count for 10% of your final course grade. Attendance at discussion sections is also mandatory.

Homework: Homework will be assigned each week and due by 5:00pm on the indicated due date. Assignments will be posted on the course website. Please turn in your homework in the dropbox in the basement of AP&M. No late homework will be accepted, but I will drop your lowest homework score to account for the possibility that you may miss one homework in the case of an emergency. Homework is worth 15% of your final course grade.

You are welcome to collaborate with your classmates on homework assignments, as group work can be quite beneficial, but please do so within limits. Please begin by attempting the problems on your own. If you find yourself stuck or would like constructive criticism, feel free to share your ideas with your classmates, myself, or your TA, but your final write-ups of your solutions should be done independently.

Exams: There will be a midterm exam (30% of your grade), and a final exam (45% of your grade). The date of the midterm is Thursday, February 11. The midterm must be taken on the scheduled date during lecture; you will not be allowed to make up the midterm exam or take the midterm exam early. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, March 17 at 11:30am. Please note that you must pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

All exams will be closed notes.

Helpful Advice: Think about mathematics every day.