

Math 121A, Winter 2021

A mathematician who is not also something of a poet will never be a complete mathematician.

–Karl Weierstrass (1815-1897)

Course: Math 121A. Foundations of Teaching and Learning Mathematics I. Lectures meet TuTh from 11:00 am - 12:20 pm PST on Zoom. Discussion section meets on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 6:50 pm PST, also on Zoom.

Professor: Laura J. Stevens, AP&M 5832, 534-5864, stevens@math.ucsd.edu, <http://www.math.ucsd.edu/~stevens/121A>.

Office hours via Zoom: Mondays from 12:00 - 1:00 pm PST, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:20 - 1:20 pm PST.

Goal: To help you become a more effective teacher by advancing your knowledge of mathematical content and pedagogy and improving your ability to articulate mathematics.

Attendance: Virtual attendance is required, and attendance and participation count for 10% of your final course grade. Attendance at discussion section is also mandatory for learning, but it does not count towards your course grade. Please note that to account for the possibility of emergency, illness, or a scheduling conflict, you may miss one class meeting without any penalty.

Textbook: No text is required.

Homework: Homework will be assigned each week and due by 11:59 pm PST on the indicated due date. Assignments will be posted on the course website. Please turn in your homework on Gradescope. No late homework will be accepted, but we will drop your lowest homework score to account for the possibility that you may miss one homework in the case of an emergency.

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 our TA, but your final write-ups of your solutions should be done independently.

Quizzes and Exams: There will be two quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam, all proctored via Zoom. Please see the course calendar for the dates of the quizzes and exams. Please note:

- The quizzes and exams must be taken on the scheduled dates at the scheduled times; you will not be allowed to make up quizzes or exams or take them early.
- All quizzes and exams will be closed notes.
- You must pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

Grades: Your cumulative course average will be calculated as follows: 10% lecture attendance and participation, 15% homework, 12.5% quiz one, 12.5% quiz two, 25% midterm exam, 25% final exam.

Recipe for Success: Think about mathematics every day. Do mathematics every day.