Math 121A, Winter 2020

Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding. –William Thurston (1946-2012)

Course: Math 121A. Foundations of Teaching and Learning Mathematics I. TuTh from 11:00 am - 12:20 pm in AP&M 5402. Discussion section meets on Fridays from 4:00 - 4:50 pm in AP&M 2402.


Office hours: Wednesdays from 10:15 - 11:45 am in AP&M 5832 and Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:45 am in AP&M 5829.

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

Textbook: No text is required.

Homework: Homework will be assigned each week and due by 5:00 pm 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.

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.

Quizzes and Exams: There will be two quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam. 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 average will be the best of the following two weighted averages:

- 10% lecture attendance and participation, 10% homework, 5% quiz one, 5% quiz two, 30% midterm exam, 40% final exam
- 10% lecture attendance and participation, 10% homework, 5% best quiz, 30% midterm exam, 45% final exam

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