

INFORMATION SHEET: MATH 230, Sections 2 (9:00) and 3 (10:00), Fall 2010

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Office Hours: M,R 11-11:50, W,F 3-3:30 or by appointment

Web Page: <http://www.math.niu.edu/~kholland/>

Math 230 Homepage: <http://www.math.niu.edu/courses/math230/>

CONTACTING ME:

The best way to communicate with me, particularly to make an appointment, is face-to-face, during office hours or at the end of class. Next best is to contact me by e-mail, which I read often.

GRADING SCALE: The points available to you for your final score are

200 (Final exam)

300 (Three hour exams)

100 (Quizzes and Special Assignments)

for a total of 600 points. Of these points,

85% guarantees an A

75% guarantees a B

65% guarantees a C

55% guarantees a D.

If you are within five percentage points of a cutoff, there are three situations in which you will receive the higher grade:

1. Your final exam score and at least two of your hour exam scores are above the cutoff.
2. Your four exam scores (as percentages) form an increasing sequence.
3. Your score on the final exam is more than twenty percentage points above the cutoff.

QUIZ and SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT POINTS:

1. You will have an announced quiz approximately once per week, generally on a Friday. Such quizzes will be graded over 20 points.
2. You will have worksheets labeled as Special Assignments with announced due dates throughout the semester. These assignments will be graded over 20 points.
3. Pop quizzes over assigned homework or the day's lecture may be given on any class day. These quizzes will be graded over 5 points.

The sum of your scores on the three items above will be expressed as a percentage of the points possible. This will constitute your Quiz and Special Assignment score.

HOMEWORK EXERCISES: These are the problems appearing under "Student Handouts" on the Math 230 Homepage. The problems have been chosen to represent the skills that you need to develop to be successful in the course.

If you are told "Section X is due on day Y; turn in Problems z_1, \dots, z_n ," this means the following:

1. By day Y, you will be responsible for the skills necessary to do the problems listed for that section. In particular, you may be quizzed on those skills beginning on day Y.
2. I will take questions on the assigned problems on day Y. If no questions are asked, I will assume you are comfortable with the problems on the assignment.
3. You should turn in Problems z_1, \dots, z_n on day Y. I will examine your work for correctness, diagnose errors, and return the problems to you promptly. You will not have a grade recorded for these submissions. Their purpose is to give you feedback in a timely way, and to give me an overview of how well the class is understanding a given topic.

READING THE TEXT:

You will always know ahead of time what is the next section of the text to be covered, and I will expect you already to have read the text section on the topic being covered on any given day. Why read before and not after the lecture? Experience shows overwhelmingly that students who have read the section in the text before attending the lecture are better able to understand the lecture, take more useful notes and are better equipped to ask helpful questions. You can read the section as many times as you wish. You will only have one shot at the lecture. Make the best of it by walking in with a foundation for understanding it.