Math 70  Math for Liberal Arts Students

INSTRUCTOR: Aaron Schusteff  TIME/PLACE: 11:10–12:00 MWF in Bungalow 715

OFFICE: Batmale 730  OFFICE HOURS: MW 12:30-1:30, or by appt.  PHONE: 239–3656

WEB PAGE: http://fog.ccsf.edu/~aschuste

PREREQUISITES: Math 60 (Intermediate Algebra) with a final grade of C or better, or placement into Math 70 with City College advising supported by the City College placement examination for mathematics.

Prerequisites are required for your benefit. They are intended to ensure sufficient preparation for a positive and successful learning experience. Some students think they’ll “save time” by skipping prerequisite math courses. Almost invariably they end up dropping—or worse, withdrawing—from the course. Thus they lose a semester rather than gain one: an unnecessarily unproductive, and discouraging experience. Be Wise And Avoid That Path!

If you’re unsure which math course(s) best matches your educational goals and preparation seek advice from a Math Faculty member. Their suggestions, together with the advice provided by your counselor, will help you chart out a plan to optimize your learning and success at CCSF and beyond.

REQUIRED TEXT: Mathematical Excursions by Aufmann, Lockwood, Nation and Clegg(3rd Edition). We’ll cover much of chapters 1-3, 5-7, and 10-12, as time permits. It’s best to read upcoming sections before we cover them in class—and I will expect you to do this! Be aware that math books aren’t intended for speed-reading. Read slowly and carefully. Be an active reader—have pencil and paper in hand so you can work out missing details, and jot down unresolved questions. Brief questions can be asked in class the next day—more involved questions can be pursued during office hours.

HOMEWORK: Reading and exercises will be assigned regularly and homework assignments will be collected periodically. Due dates will be announced at least a week in advance. Late homework will not be accepted. Your understanding of concepts and mastery of skills will depend in large part on the effort and concentration which you devote to working through the homework exercises. This in turn will effect your performance on exams and your course grade. Homework provides an essential opportunity for you to familiarize yourself with important techniques, terminology, and notation—and to practice their proper usage.

In writing up your homework the quality and organization of your presentation is important. Strive for neatness and clarity in form and content. You should show a reasonable number of steps for each solution ... generally this means writing more than just “the answer”. The goal is to understand not just the “mechanics” of a given problem, but also the correct use of any related concepts, terminology, and notation. This will help develop habits of clarity and care in analytic thinking—one of the most valuable and lasting benefits you can gain from a math class.

Discussing exercises and working with classmates is highly encouraged, provided you think through and write up solutions yourself. And remember: before attempting each homework assignment you should read the corresponding section of the book!

QUIZZES AND EXAMS: There will be three or four 50-minute exams (worth 100 points each) and possibly a number of short quizzes (worth 10 points). Exams dates will be announced approximately one week ahead, but quizzes may be given unannounced at any time. The final exam (worth 200 points) will cover the whole course. No makeup exams or quizzes will be given. The lowest exam and quiz scores will be dropped in computing your point total for the course—provided your homework assignments are completed in a satisfactory manner and submitted on time! Missed exams or quizzes will be assigned 0 points.

All exams will be “closed book” with no calculators allowed. The final exam is currently scheduled for Friday, December 19, from 10:30am–12:30pm. Unless modified on the CCSF online Schedule of Classes, that exam date/time will not be changed. So if you are flying somewhere far away for the semester break, book your tickets after that date! If a student misses the final exam, their final exam score will be 0.
GRADING: Your course grade will be based on total points earned according to the following scale:
100%—90% = A; 89%—80% = B; 79%—65% = C; 64%—50% = D; 49%—0% = F.

Cheating on any exam or quiz will result in an F (0 points) on the exam or quiz, possibly an F in the course, and will be subject to further administrative action by the Dean of Students—including possible expulsion from the college.

DROPS AND WITHDRAWALS: September 11 is the last day to Drop a course (i.e. avoid a “W” on your record). November 13 is the last day to Withdraw from a course (and receive a “W”). It is the student’s responsibility to file petitions for Drops and Withdrawals on time.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is required. Class begins at 11:10. Please arrive on time—late arrivals disrupt class. Enrollment in this class is already full. Many students may be waiting for any slots vacated by absences. If you have 2 or more unexcused absences days during the first two weeks; 4 or more days during the first four weeks; or 6 or more throughout the semester you may be dropped from the class. However, do not assume that you will be dropped if you simply stop coming to class—file the appropriate paperwork at Admission and Records. Otherwise you may receive an F in place of a W.

STUDY HABITS: Good study habits are the most essential ingredient for success in a math class. Keep up, don’t fall behind! You should plan to devote at least two or more hours of study time for each hour of class. This time should be spent: reading the text; working on homework exercises; reviewing your notes; rereading the text; working with others in study groups; and consulting with me during office hours or with tutors in the Learning Assistance Center (L 207). It may also include exploring course-related topics by using computer software; consulting other texts in the library; or studying relevant sites on the internet.

IN THE CLASSROOM: Students are expected to maintain a classroom environment conducive to learning—showing respect for each other and for the instructor. Please keep in mind that there are a lot of people in our class, and they’ve all enrolled for the purpose of learning the course material. Chatting and socializing are quite distracting to others and should generally take place outside of class time. Rude or disruptive behavior is completely inappropriate—students engaging in such behavior will be warned and subject to disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the classroom and the course.

Your participation in classroom discussion and exploration is essential for optimal learning and is highly encouraged. If your question helps clarify a concept for you, chances are it will do the same for other students. However, we’ll often need to try to discipline ourselves to keep relatively focused on the topic at hand. If at times, one or two attempts to answer a question still leave you puzzled, we may have to move on, in the interests of best use of class time. In such an instance you should jot down your question and pursue it later—during my office hours, or with tutors, or with your classmates. Try to get your questions answered!

A positive attitude, and good sense of humor can go a long way towards helping everyone in the class have a successful and enjoyable learning experience.

GETTING HELP: Please don’t hesitate to come see me during office hours if you get stuck or have any questions regarding homework, lecture, the text, or the course in general. In addition, tutoring is available at the Learning Assistance Center (Rosenberg Library 207) from 8am—4pm Monday through Friday, and 4pm—7pm Tuesday and Thursday. (These hours may have changed ... check with the LAC.)

POLICY CHANGES: I reserve the right to change any of these policies as necessary during the semester and will inform you of any changes.

The Key to Success in this course is DILIGENT AND CONSISTENT WORK. Work Hard, Learn, and Enjoy!