Fall 2015

MATH 3900

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University of New Orleans

UNO Course Syllabus for Math 3900, Sec 1, Fall 2015

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F. Student learning outcomes:

- Discuss an area of mathematics orally
- Accomplish taking a standardized mathematics test
- Create a written essay
- Share your opinions about the mathematics program

G. Attendance policy

Make every effort to attend the few days you are required to. These events include a talk where the whole university community will be waiting to hear your presentation, and it will be very awkward to reschedule them. If you have an excused absence, you are expected promptly to justify your excused absence with a written letter (letter from boss for work reasons, letter from doctor for illness, etc.) no later than 1 week after you are back at school. Excuse letters should be signed.

H. Required/recommended textbooks/learning resources

Required textbook: You should look at the free pdfs at
http://www.ets.org/mft/about/content/mathematics
because you will be required to take this test.

Recommended Textbook:
"Cracking the GRE Mathematics Subject Test, 4th Edition" by Stephen Leduc. ISBN-10: 0375429727. ISBN-13: 9780375429729.
This is currently the highest rated GRE Mathematics Subject Test Study guide, and it will help you to go over it for both your GRE Subject Test score and your Major Field Test in Mathematics score.

Moodle: You can access Moodle at:
https://uno.mrooms3.net/login/index.php

I. Course prerequisites (if applicable)

Sophomore class standing and permission from the mathematics department.

J. Tentative due dates for assignments, projects, tests, final exam

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19-Aug					
24-Aug		Last day to withdraw with 100% refund.			
31-Aug					
7-Sep					
14-Sep					
21-Sep					
28-Sep					
5-Oct					
12-Oct			Last drop day.	Mid-semester break	Mid-semester break
19-Oct					Major Field Test, 2 pm – 5 pm
26-Oct					
2-Nov					
9-Nov					
16-Nov					Oral Presentations, 2 pm – 5 pm
23-Nov					Written Presentations due
30-Nov					Surveys Due

Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee 08/18/2015
Semester Classes Begin..... 08/19/2015
Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,
or withdraw with 100% refund..... 08/25/2015
Last day to apply for December commencement ... 09/25/2015
Final day to drop a course or resign 10/14/2015
Mid-semester examinations 10/05-10/09/2015
Final examinations..... 12/07-12/11/2015
Commencement 12/18/2015

**Note: check Registrar's website for Saturday and A/B sessions, and for items not listed here: http://www.registrar.uno.edu*

K. Criteria for grading and grading standards

There are 4 things to do in this class:

(1) Take the ETS Major Field Test in Mathematics. You will receive a letter grade based on how well you do in this test against a national percentile average. A: 80-100%, B: 60-79%, C: 40-59%, D: 20-39%, F: 0-19%.

(2) Give an oral presentation. A grading rubric for this presentation is at the end of this syllabus. Students will do this test in alphabetical order by last name.

(3) Hand in a written essay. A grading rubric for this essay is at the end of this syllabus.

(4) Complete and hand in a survey. You will not receive a grade for this survey. You have the option of not filling it out, but we request that if you do so you state "I do not wish to fill the survey out," and hand us this statement. Otherwise, we would very much value your input and commentary about the mathematics program at UNO.

Although you receive a letter grade for components (1)-(3) above, the actual course in pass/fail. Your letter grades above for (1)-(3) will be converted to numbers (in the usual way with A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) and the average of these three numbers will be calculated. If the average is 2.0 or higher, you receive a passing grade for the course. If the average is less than 2.0, you receive a failing grade for the course.

L. If online course, assignment/exam proctoring options

This is not an online course.

M. If graduate level course being co-taught with undergraduate, separate section on graduate level requirements (e.g., readings, performances, assessments)

There is no graduate level course begin co-taught.

N. Statement on student conduct

The Student Code of Conduct is available online at
http://www.uno.edu/studentaffairs/
by searching for "Student Code of Conduct". You should read and understand it.

The university has the legal right and moral obligation to establish reasonable rules for academic and personal conduct and to deny admission to applicants or continued enrollment to students who do not meet or maintain these standards. The university does, in addition, reserve the right to review any action taken by civil or student accountability authorities regarding UNO students or student organizations. Special conditions such as counseling and/or sanctions may be imposed on students or student organizations that are found in violation of these standards.

In general, in class you should be respectful of other students and of the teacher, and behave in an appropriate manner. That is, remain quiet unless there is a class discussion, raise your hand if you have a question, and not talk at the same time other people are talking.

O. Standard statement on academic integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at

http://www.uno.edu/studentaffairs/.

P. Standard statement on accommodations for students with disabilities

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to
http://www.ods.uno.edu/

Q. Description of what the class will be like, including how the class will be taught and why

This class is a class designed to assess how much you have learned as a math major at UNO. It is not a class in the traditional sense, as there is no teaching and you do all of the work. It is more similar to an exit examination and survey than it is to a class.

R. Description of instructor expectations of students (e.g., reading assignments prior to class, arriving on time, remaining for full class session, participation in discussions, etc.)

(i) Students are expected to independently study for the ETS Major Field Test in mathematics. You are welcome to come into my office hours or the office hours of any math instructor at UNO and ask questions about topics that come up when you self-study.

(ii) You are expected to come up with topics for your oral presentation and written essay. You are strongly encouraged to seek help from a math instructor at UNO for ideas and commentary. For example, maybe you have a "favorite teacher" who taught a class you really liked. Go up to them and ask them if they have ideas for a presentation, or if they have any comments on the rough draft of your presentation/essay.

(iii) You are expected to appear on time for the major field test in mathematics and for the oral presentations.

S. Description of special procedures for this class (e.g., laboratory rules)

Your oral presentation need not be PowerPoint, but it should be in some electronic format and you should appear on time with either a notebook computer or a USB stick with the presentation on it.

T. Advice on how to read/approach materials, how to study for tests/exams

For the major field test, look at the free study guide on their sight. Optionally, buy a gre math subject study guide, which will have the advantage that it should help your math gre score if you plan on going to graduate school.

For the oral presentation, definitely do try to approach one of the math instructors at UNO for feedback. For example, if it is a statistics presentation, seek input from a statistician.

U. Specific criteria for each graded assignment

See parts Q and R above for more details on the topics covered. See rubrics at the end of this syllabus.

V. Statement on incomplete or late coursework, extra credit, etc.

Extra credit work will not be given under any circumstances.

W. Information on student support services (e.g., Learning Resource Center, Library)

You can go to the Math Tutor Center for help with your math classes. It is in Mathematics Building 105.

3900 Oral Presentation Rubric

Student Name:

CATEGORY	3 points	2 points	1 point	no points
Time-Limit (Does not include time at end of talk for answering any questions but does include any time used answering questions during the interior of the talk.)	Presentation is 12-18 minutes long, with the ideal time of 15 minutes.	Presentation is 10-11 minutes or 19-20 minutes long.		Presentation is less than 10 minutes or more than 20 minutes.
Comprehension	Student is able to accurately answer questions posed by the audience about the topic without any help.	Student is able to accurately answer questions posed by the audience about the topic, but needs minor help.	Student is able to accurately answer questions posed by the audience about the topic, but needs significant help.	Student is unable to accurately answer questions posed by the audience about the topic, even with help.
Content	Shows a good understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic.	Shows a fair understanding of the topic.	Does not seem to understand the topic very well.
Preparedness	Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed.	Student seems pretty prepared but might have needed a couple more rehearsals.	The student is somewhat prepared, but it is clear that rehearsal was lacking.	Student does not seem at all prepared to present.
Structure	Presentation has a clear introduction, a clear middle portion, a clear conclusion, and a list of sources at the end which contains at least 4 reputable sources.	Presentation lacks one of the structure items.	Presentation lacks two of the structure items.	Presentation lacks three or more of the structure items.

Grading Scale:

A: 13-15 points
B: 10-12 points
C: 7-9 points
D: 4-6 points
F: 0-3 points

3900 Essay Rubric

Student Name:

CATEGORY	3 points	2 points	1 point	no points
Length	Essay is at least 6 full pages long (when double spaced, with normal margins, and a font that is 10-12 points), not including the list of references.	Essay is 4-5 pages long.	Essay is 2-3 pages long.	Essay is 1 or less page long.
History, Examples, terms defined	Student gives a brief history of the topic and its relevance, lists at least one example, and defines appropriate vocabulary terms that might be unfamilar to a junior-level mathematics major.	Student includes 2 of the 3 topics in this category.	Student includes 1 of the 3 topics in this category.	Student does not include any of the topics in this category.
Content	Shows a good understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic.	Shows a fair understanding of the topic.	Does not seem to understand the topic very well.
Grammar	Student makes 2 or less minor grammatical and/or spelling errors.	There are several (3 or more) minor grammatical and/or spelling errors.	There are a few major grammatical and/or spelling errors.	There are more than a few major grammatical and/or spelling errors.
Structure	Essay has a clear introduction, a clear middle portion, a clear conclusion, and a list of sources at the end which contains at least 6 reputable sources.	Essay lacks one of the structure items.	Essay lacks two of the structure items.	Essay lacks three or more of the structure items.

Grading Scale:

A: 13-15 points
B: 10-12 points
C: 7-9 points
D: 4-6 points
F: 0-3 points