

Math 320 — Spring, 2005

MWF 2:30 - 3:20 p.m., CW 130

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Office hours: MWF 1:30 - 2:20 p.m.

Goals: This course is a *mathematics* course focusing on elementary school mathematics. The main goal is to acquire a solid knowledge of that material.

Texts:

- *Elementary Mathematics for Teachers*, by Thomas H. Parker and Scott Baldrige.
- *Primary Mathematics textbooks (U.S. Edition)* — Primary Mathematics 3A, 4A, 5A, 5B and 6A and Workbook 5A. Students using this elementary school curriculum were tested as the best in the world. We will do many problems from these books.

It is hoped that all these books will also be useful after you begin your teaching career.

Expectations: Classes will be primarily lectures, with problem solving individually and in small groups. You are expected to take complete notes, to participate in class activities, and to ask questions about what you do not understand.

Tentative Exam Schedule:	100 pts	First Hourly Exam	Monday, February 7
	100 pts	Second Hourly Exam	Wednesday, March 2
	100 pts	Third Hourly Exam	Wednesday, April 6
	200 pts	Final Exam	Friday, May 6
	150 pts	Homework & Quizzes	Weekly

NOTICE: the final exam is tentatively scheduled for the last day of the semester, pending authorization from the University. If anyone objects, please let me know before April 13.

Grading Policy: There will be 3 hourly exams, a final exam, and homework/quizzes/special assignments, with weights as shown above. Missed exams will count as 0 points. Only under rare circumstances (such as illness with a doctor's written excuse) will a make-up exam be given.

The grading scale I like to use in all the classes I teach is the following:

80% – 100%	=	A
60% – 79%	=	B
45% – 59%	=	C
30% – 44%	=	D
0% – 29%	=	F

However, at the end of the semester when I get the cumulative scores I generally start with the scale given above and then modify it a bit.

Homework and Quizzes: Mathematics is learned by practice, and confidence is gained through mastery of the material. Homework will be assigned weekly in class and is due each Wednesday in the Homework boxes. There will also be frequent quizzes. Part of the quizzes will be administered online. Homework and quizzes will count for one fifth of your grade.

You should plan on spending at least **2 hours** of homework for each class meeting. It is essential not to get behind. You are encouraged to work in groups on difficult homework problems. This doesn't mean that you should copy from someone or allow someone to copy from you. Rather, you should *explain* the difficult problems and solutions to one another to help each other understand. *Do not let yourself get behind the class!* As in most math courses, the material progressively builds upon itself. If you do not understand a particular topic *ask* in class or in office hours.

Calculators: Calculators will **not** be used for this class, and will not be allowed for exams. A successful elementary school teacher should be confident and comfortable solving problems mentally and on paper. One of the goals of this course is to develop that facility.

Important dates:

- For K-State Academic Calendar, see <http://www.k-state.edu/cgi-bin/eventview/registrar/academic>
- Monday, January 17 — MLK Day. Student/University Holiday.
- March 21 — March 25: Spring Break. Class does not meet.
- Friday, May 6 — Last day of this class.