Course Syllabus: Math 160
Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics
Kansas State University
Fall 2004

Time and place: MWF 11:30 am, CW 129
Course web page: http://www.math.ksu.edu/~neumann/m160f04/
Instructor: G. C. Neumann
Email: neumann@math.ksu.edu
Office: CW 125
Phone: 785-532-0595
Office hours: MWF 2:00 - 3:00 pm or by appointment


Course objective: When you think of mathematics, do you think of blackboards covered with unintelligible symbols, tedious arithmetic calculations, or misleading story problems that have no relation to reality? In other words, do you think of a dreary subject where all of the answers are already known? We will study how mathematics is used to help solve real world problems. We will also “look under the hood” and explore the workings of these mathematical models. Our topics will be drawn from management science, the mathematics of elections, and probability and statistics. We hope that this introductory sampler of topics will broaden your view of mathematics and whet your curiosity about how mathematics is used in today's world.

Grading policy:

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<tr>
<th>Required work</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterms (best two of three)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Optional extra credit work</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT 1 extra credit problem</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT 2 extra credit problem</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT 3 extra credit problem</td>
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Portfolio: You are responsible for maintaining a complete portfolio of your graded homeworks, exams, and extra credit work. You are responsible for picking up your graded work in class or at office hours. If the need arises, your portfolio will be used to verify, update, or correct course records; an incomplete portfolio could negatively impact your course grade.

Preparation and attendance: Reading assignments will be given for most of our class meetings. To encourage you to do the reading before class, extra credit will be given for preparation (this will be
explained in our first class meeting). You are strongly encouraged to be an active learner and ask questions in class and at office hours.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned most weeks. You will be expected to write your answers in such a way that another Math 160 student would be able to understand how to solve the problem by reading your solution; it is not enough to just give the answer. You are encouraged to work with your classmates on the homework and to ask questions about the homework at office hours; however, you are expected to write up your answers on your own. Your score on each homework will be recorded as a percentage of the possible points. No late homework assignments will be accepted. Your two lowest homework scores will be dropped before determining the homework component of your grade.

**Midterm and final exams:** No make-up exams will be given. There will be three midterms and a final exam. The lowest of your three midterm scores will be dropped.

**Dates of exams:**
- Midterms: September 17, October 18, and November 19.
- Final exam: Friday, December 17, 11:50 am - 1:40 pm.

**Important notices:**

1. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper, or project, failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the University. For more information, see the website http://www.ksu.edu/honor.

2. In this class, you are allowed to work together unless otherwise informed. You will be asked to sign the honor pledge on any written work where you are not to work together.

3. If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined above or which will require academic accommodations, please see the instructor in the first two weeks of the course.