Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics
Math 160, Section D
Basic Information for Students, Fall 2006

• GENERAL INFO:
  Instructor: Dr. Ivan Blank.
  My Office: Cardwell 027.
  My Email: blanki@math.ksu.edu (This is a great way to contact me.)
  My Phone: (785) 532-0536 (This is a terrible way to contact me.)
  My Website: http://math.ksu.edu/~blanki
  Course Website: http://math.ksu.edu/math160d.f06/

  Course Schedule: MWF 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM, CW 129
  Office Hours: M 2:30 PM - 3:20 PM, T 11 AM - 11:50 AM, T 3:30 PM - 4:20 PM and by appointment. (Be very clear about the following thing: I will be very happy to spend extra time helping you understand the material before tests and quizzes (and any other time), but I do not enjoy listening to any whining after you get your grade, and make-ups are extremely rare in my courses.)

• PREREQUISITES: A good work ethic and an open mind.

• TEXTBOOK FOR THE COURSE: For all Practical Purposes (Mathematical Literacy in Today’s World), 7th ed., by COMAP

• MATERIAL TO COVER: First and foremost, I need to make sure that you have a mastery of the basic skills and concepts involved in arithmetic and algebra. Besides that we have some flexibility as to which parts of the book we will cover.

• CALCULATOR: No calculator will ever be allowed on any test.

• HOMEWORK: You are welcome to work together on the HWs and I encourage you to form groups for the problem sets. You are not welcome to become a “human xerox machine,” nor should you allow any member of your problem set groups to become one. In short I assume that you understand everything that you submit, and if you are willing to let your friend see your work, then you must be willing to explain your work to him or her until he or she understands. As a courtesy to the grader, you must staple or paper clip your assignments. (No corner fold-rip-jobs!)
• CHEAT SHEETS: If cheat sheets are needed for the tests, then I will create one and post it before the test so that you will know what is and what is not on it. (I am also the person who determines the content of the cheat sheet.)

• BASIS OF GRADE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Tests @ 100 points each</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes and Homeworks</td>
<td>300 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>800 points</td>
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</tbody>
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The Fine Print

• CHANGES: Information in this handout is subject to minor changes at my discretion.

• SNOW DAYS: In the event that a class is cancelled on the day of a midterm or exam due to inclement weather or some other unpredictable event, the test will then occur at the first day class resumes. (In short, the midterm will occur as soon as possible.)

• DROPS AND THE GRANDMA CLAUSE: On the other hand, I will drop your two lowest quiz grades, so that I don’t have to hear about how your grandmother ran over your cat, and in a desperate attempt to save the cat by mouth-to-mouth, acquired a strain of cat encephalitis so rare that you had to fly to South America to get the cure, and how in your haste, you did not have time to return to get your textbook and the assignment from your roommate’s ex-girlfriend’s uncle’s house where you had been diligently studying calculus the night before.

• SUDDEN EMERGENCIES: In the unfortunate event that you miss a midterm or an exam (this clause does not apply to quizzes or homework assignments!) because you have an emergency, please bring all of the necessary documentation to convince either myself or some foolish provost that (1) it required your presence, and that (2) you had no way to predict the unfortunate event in advance.
• **NOT SO SUDDEN EMERGENCIES:** In the unfortunate event that you miss a midterm or an exam because of a not so sudden emergency (examples: knee surgery, your job requires your presence for something out of the ordinary, etc.) you need to tell me about the conflict at least a week before it happens, and you can expect to take the make-up exam before the date of the actual exam, and finally, you need to document both (1) the appointment and (2) the fact that the appointment could not take place at any other non-conflicting time. Once again, this has no extension to quizzes. Also, repeated absenses due to work fall under the “I have a job” clause below, and not under this clause.

• **CONSEQUENCES:** If you miss a midterm and fail to satisfy the requirements in one of the last two clauses, then you should expect an automatic zero for that test.

• **THE CELL PHONE CLAUSE:** If your cell phone goes off during class, then expect to be pelted with chalk.

• **THE SANTA CLAUSE:** If you have a religious reason why you will miss classes when school is in session, then you should tell me about it before the particular holiday or holidays.

• **THE “I HAVE A JOB” CLAUSE:** By taking this course, you are making a commitment to do the work. If you are already too busy to take this course because of other commitments, then do not look for flexibility from me. Look instead for a “drop” form. (This policy is not because I don’t sympathize. I do. This policy is because at any school where the diploma is worth more than the paper it is printed on, the grades are based on achievement alone.) Note also that if you will be missing repeated class days due to work then that situation falls under this clause and not under the “Not so sudden emergency” clause above.

• **THE PLEADING DUMB CLAUSE:** If you do not understand any of the clauses above and/or what would be its implications to your own personal very special situation then you can come to me during office hours (or email me) and I’ll explain things as they pertain to you.