Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers  
Math 320, Section C  
Basic Information for Students, Fall 2007

• **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: **Probably:** http://math.ksu.edu/math320c.f07/
  There will definitely be a link from my webpage, however.

  Course Schedule: MWF 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM, CW 143

  **Office Hours:** W Lunch, W 2:30 - 3:20, Th 2:30 - 3:20, Th 5:30 - 6:20, and by appointment. I will schedule extra office hours before exams.

  (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.


• **MATERIAL TO COVER:** Chapters 2 - 6 will be the core of what we do, and if time permits, then we will work on some of the material in Chapter 1 and in Chapters 9 - 11. I am most concerned with making sure that you have a mastery of basic skills of arithmetic and algebra, and if there is more time, geometry.

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

• **HOMEWORK:** Homework will be the basis of the quizzes. The homework will not be collected. I strongly suggest that you do the homework in “testing conditions.”

• **QUIZZES:** Every Friday unless otherwise stated in class. These will be collected. (They will be curved nicely, but zeros curve to zero!)
• **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:**

  - 2 Tests @ 100 points each = 200 points
  - Final Exam = 150 points
  - Weekly Quizzes = 150 points
  - Attendance = 100 points
  - Total = 600 points


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.