Math 160:
Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics
Spring 2008
M W F 8:30 – 9:20
Room CW 122

Instructor: Victor Turchin
Office Hours: Monday & Friday 9:30am – 10:30am
or by appointment
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Phone: 785-532-0568

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is for you to gain a basic understanding of some ideas in modern mathematics. In particular, you will learn a variety of applications of mathematics. Besides that we will be also training basic arithmetic and algebra skills.


Course Schedule: The class meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 8:30 – 9:20 in Room CW 122. No class on: January 21, March 17 – 21.

Homework: Homework will be due each Tuesday at 7pm. I will usually post the weekly homework problems online (go to http://www.math.ksu.edu/~turchin, and follow the links to “Teaching” → “Math 160”). No late homework will be accepted. No make-up homework. I encourage you to form groups to work on the homework problems together but I expect you to write your own solutions. All members of your team should understand how to solve the problems. As a courtesy to the grader, you must staple or paper clip your assignments. (No corner fold-rip-jobs!) The lowest two grades will be dropped.

Note cards: Sometimes you will be asked to read the sections to be covered during the week and to prepare and bring in a 4×6 note card with the main idea of the sections. These note cards will be due on Monday. The information about the note cards will be also posted online.

Quizzes: Each quiz will weigh the same as a note card, with grading 0-1-2. Three lowest grades for the quizzes and note cards will be dropped. For the quizzes work in groups is encouraged, you will be also allowed to use your notes and the textbook.
Attendance & Participation in Class: A substantial part of the class time will be dedicated to hands-on activities and working through the homework problems. In-class participation will count for a substantial percentage of the final grade.

Tests: There will be four tests given in this class: three midterms and one final exam:

- Midterm 1: Wednesday, February 13
- Midterm 2: Wednesday, March 12
- Midterm 3: Wednesday, April 16
- Final Exam: To be announced

You may not use notes, books or calculators during the exams. There will not be make-up exams. If you miss more than one of the Midterm Exams or the Final Exam for verifiable personal emergencies, it is possible to receive the grade of “Incomplete” for the course. If you know in advance that you will miss either a Midterm or the Final, please bring all of the necessary documentation to convince KSU Administration that special considerations should apply in your case. It is your responsibility to do all the required paperwork.

Help: I will be happy to help you understanding the material of the course during class and during my office hours. You are strongly encouraged to ask for extra help. Please drop by (during office hours) or send me an e-mail to set an appointment.

Tips for succeeding in this course: Please note that your grade is significantly based on your homework score + in-class participation. This reflects how important it is to do your homework as it is impossible to learn mathematics without actually solving problems. I recommend that you try your best to solve the homework exercises before coming to class and ask specific questions during class. Also, the problems in the exams will be very similar to the homework problems.

Basis of grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes &amp; Note cards</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterms</td>
<td>300 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>750 points</td>
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All the grades will be posted on KS-online: http://public.online.ksu.edu/

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, failure in the course and/or expulsion from the University.