

Math 314 - Discrete Mathematics

Summer 2010

Nathan Reff

Basic Info:

Course Meetings: MTWRF 9:50-11:50 in S2-260 (May 25-June 25)

Email: reff@math.binghamton.edu

Web Page: <http://www.math.binghamton.edu/grads/reff/m314>

Office Hours: T:2-3,WR:12-1 in LN 2243

Text: *Discrete Mathematics: An Introduction to Proofs and Combinatorics*,
1st Ed. by Kevin Ferland (ISBN-13:978-0618415380)

This is a FIVE week course

This means that if you are planning on succeeding in this course you will need to take things seriously. The pace of this course will be quite fast. That being said, I highly suggest that every day you read the chapters covered in class and work through problems. Think of this as a reading course. I also would like you to bring the textbook to class daily.

Homework: Homework problems will be assigned daily, and will be collected after each exam. The homework will be graded only on completeness. This means you really need to ask questions if you are not sure about a problem. Doing the homework is the most effective method to prepare yourself for the quizzes and exams and it is *very* important that you keep working on problems throughout the course. There is an old saying that “math is not a spectator sport” and there is definitely a lot of truth to this. Working on your own and also with other classmates is recommended. If you are working on a problem and get stuck, make a note of it and remember to *ask questions*. I encourage *everyone* to come to office hours.

Most sections end with a set of exercises. The answers to the odd numbered problems are located at the back of the book. I suggest doing all of the problems in the text if you wish to master the material.

Quizzes: You should expect a quiz every day unless there is a test. Quizzes will usually cover material from the previous day’s lecture and homework problems assigned. There will be no make up quizzes. Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped if you attempt every quiz.

Exams: Exams will be announced at least 2 days in advance. See the tentative exam dates below. Note that these may change due to the fast pace of the course. Appropriate documentation is needed for excused absences (more on this below).

Tentative Exam Dates:

Exam 1 Wednesday June 2

Exam 2 Wednesday June 9

Exam 3 Thursday June 17

Exam 4 Friday June 25

Quiz/Exam Policy: No calculators, cellphones, mp3 players, slide rules, abaci, Additors, Napier's bones, Difference/Analytical Engines, Pascalinas, Antikythera mechanisms, etc. may be used. In other words I want you to only use your brain and the hard work you put into this course to earn your grade. You may not talk to each other in the classroom while other students are working, even if you are done. Please keep your eyes on your own paper. Do not look at notes, books, etc. while working. Work through the problem on your own and you will do fine (and save us both a lot of trouble).

Cheating and Academic Honesty: Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. It is disrespectful to the University, your classmates and to me. If you are caught cheating you will receive a 0 on the assignment and depending on the severity of the cheating, you may receive an F in the course. Additionally, you will be subject to the University's disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy: Binghamton University has a 75% attendance policy (details of this are located in the bulletin, available at <http://bulletin.binghamton.edu/>). I will not enforce any additional policy other than this. However you should keep in mind that this is a 5 week course and missing one day can be comparable to missing half a week at normal pace. This should convince you that daily attendance is very important. If you must miss a class it is your responsibility to learn the missed material quickly to keep up with the course.

Excused Absences: If you cannot attend one of the exams you should submit a written reason for your absence **in advance** of the exam date. In emergency situations email me before the test. The decision to allow make-up exams will be made by the instructor on a case by case basis, but proper documentation is always necessary. No make-up exams will be given without advance notice. If you miss a quiz with an excused absence there won't be a make up, however I will not count this against you. If you miss a quiz, exam or final with an unexcused absence, you will receive a 0 for that particular assignment.

Final Grades: Letter grades will be based on percentage points as follows.

A	: 95 - 100	C+	: 77 - 79.9
A-	: 90 - 94.9	C	: 73 - 76.9
B+	: 87 - 89.9	C-	: 70 - 72.9
B	: 83 - 86.9	D	: 60-69.9
B-	: 80 - 82.9	F	: below 60

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

Quizzes and Homework	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Exam 4	20%

You also have the opportunity to earn up to 1.0% participation points added to you final course grade. You can earn these points by answering questions, asking relevant questions,

etc. Coming to class is expected and will not get you these participation points alone. I would like everyone to be a part of the classroom discussions. The purpose for these participation points is to give you a little extra boost if you are on the boarder line of two grade letters. Of course it is up to you to earn them.

Extra Credit & “Curving”: I will not curve any quiz, exam or course grade. I will not be giving anyone extra credit. This way everyone has the same advantage in the course. In the rare event of something like an unfair question, I will make appropriate steps to give everyone the same chance to get credit where it is due.