

Syllabus

Math 119

Spring '17

Text: **Precalculus** by Stewart, Redlin & Watson, 7th edition

Instructor: Jed Herman Office: SCI D 287 (x4188)

Office Hours: MT 12:00 – 12:50, WR 2:00-2:50

 or by appointment (or whenever I'm in... just stop by!)

Class times & room: 1:00 – 1:50 TR in SCI A225

Course Objective:

- To learn how to effectively communicate mathematical ideas to others
- To learn how to work in groups effectively
- To learn the material from chapters 5 – 7 in the text

Calculators:

A scientific calculator (one that calculates sines and cosines) is required for this course. If you are going to purchase a calculator for this course, a good one might be the **TI-30X IIS**. It's easy to use, easy to find, and it doesn't cost much. All calculators are slightly different. Be sure that you have a manual!

Workload:

This course has a heavy workload. In general, I will expect an average of about 2 to 3 hours of outside work for every hour spent in the classroom! This means that you will need to do about 4 to 6 hours PER WEEK of outside class time for this course. Some weeks might be easier, some might be harder – this is an average.

This time includes time spent getting ready for each day's lessons (daily homework before class, reading the section, etc.) and also includes time spent on homework assignments... but be forewarned: if math does not come easy to you, you might have to spend more time than that on homework. It will pay off in the end, but it is a hassle.

Attendance:

You are expected to regularly attend class. When circumstances arise to prevent you from coming to class, you should let your instructor know (email is a great way to do so). Missing exams and/or paper deadlines will only be allowed in the most dire of circumstances and **WILL** require **ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION** as to the reason for the absence.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

You have certain rights and responsibilities. For more information, see the following link:
<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsCommBillRights.pdf>

Syllabus page 3

Math 119

Spring '17

Worksheets, continued

It is worth discussing this teaching model a little. It is a little like what is called the “flipped classroom” (if you have heard of that). I *will* explain the day’s material, but in order for this teaching method to work, you will have to read the material **before** each class period.

To encourage you to read ahead, you will need to turn in a homework problem at the start of class each day. You will have a few minutes to discuss answers with your group members if you wish – but not enough time to do the problem from scratch.

Students *can* have emergencies and/or illnesses which prevent them from coming to class on occasion. To this end, the lowest TWO days’ scores will be dropped (remember, there are two worksheets each day). You can also get half credit for a missed worksheet by turning it fully completed within two days of returning to class (but not later than the next exam day).

- *Can I make up missed daily worksheets?* For partial credit only. An important part of the worksheets is the presentation of ideas, which you will have missed.
- *Do I have to work in a group?* The short answer is yes. It is not enough to know things – you need to be able to communicate them.
- *Will we have assigned groups?* No. You will find people to work with, 2 to 3 per group. It could be the same group each time or different ones. If there are problems with group formation, your professor will help smooth them out.
- *I hate working in groups! The other people are too fast/too slow!* Groups benefit fast workers because they get to explain their ideas to other people – talking about what you know makes you understand it better. Groups benefit slower workers because they benefit from the ideas and explanations of others – methods they may not have understood as well before the explanation.
- *If we are just working on worksheets, why can't we skip class and turn it in the next day?* The discussion and presentation of ideas is a critical part of this method of learning, and you can't do it without being in class to present.
- *Why don't you just teach us instead? We paid good money for this class! I am teaching you with this method – just not in the traditional way.* You will actually learn the material better this way than you would in lecture course – you will have to work harder in class and think more and ask more questions. Instead of being spoon-fed little bits to memorize, you will have to learn how to learn.

D2L Storage and Homework Boards

D2L will serve as a storage space for worksheets and homework assignment pages. That way, you can easily get access to them if you miss them. There will also be discussion boards available for you to post comments or questions.

The boards will be monitored after the fact. That is, you will post directly to the board, and I will monitor (semi-weekly). Postings are never anonymous and must not contain inappropriate (foul, rude, hostile) language. Violation of this rule may constitute academic misconduct (see below).

There will be a discussion board each week for homework questions. You will get *extra credit* if you post a question from the homework or an answer to another person's question (it does not matter if the question is required or suggested). To earn the extra credit, your post must meet the following criteria:

- 1) you ask a question about how to do part of the homework/quiz assignment for the week, or you answer such a question or correct someone else's wrong answer, and
- 2) the posting contains new content (so a posting which says "I agree" is not worth extra credit!)

You can earn up to ONE extra credit point per WEEK by posting in this way.

The instructor will check all boards at least once every 24 hours (except maybe on the weekends). Unanswered questions and incorrect answers will be answered/fixed after 48 hours or so if no one has already done so.

Academic Misconduct Policy

I expect you to complete the coursework for this course. Failure to complete an assignment will result in zero points awarded for that assignment. Late assignments may lose points, at the discretion of the instructor. Also see the following link:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>

Disabilities

Information concerning accommodations made as per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act can be found at

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

In particular, to request any accommodations of this type, relevant to this class, you should discuss the matter with the Disability Services Office. Information and contact information may be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

Worksheets, continued

- *I hate working in groups! The other people are too fast/too slow!* Groups benefit fast workers because they get to explain their ideas to other people – talking about what you know makes you understand it better. Groups benefit slower workers because they benefit from the ideas and explanations of others – methods they may not have understood as well before the explanation.
- *If we are just working on worksheets, why can't we skip class and turn it in the next day?* The discussion and presentation of ideas is a critical part of this method of learning, and you can't do it without being in class to present.
- *Why don't you just teach us instead? We paid good money for this class!* You did pay for this class and should get your money's worth. But you did not pay for someone to talk in front of you – you paid for and signed up to LEARN MATHEMATICS. You will learn more from this method than you would from a standard lecture course.
- *We want you to teach us! You are making us do the work!* You will have to work harder in this class than a traditional lecture. You will have to pay attention more, ask more questions, and think more. Instead of being spoon-fed, you will have to learn to learn.
- *I wanted a math class I could take and not think about!* Sorry, can't help you there.
- *What if I get sick for an extended period?* If you have a situation which takes you away from school for an extended period, we can revisit the presentation grades. But there is also a real issue with learning the material.

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