Math 372-01, Winter 2015

Course Syllabus, Call # 23149

Title: Combinatorics
Classroom: JB 383
Meeting time: 6-7:50 PM, Mondays and Wednesdays
Instructor: Dr. Corey Dunn
Dr. Dunn’s Office: JB 368B
Dr. Dunn’s E-mail: cmdunn “at” csusb.edu
Dr. Dunn’s Phone: (909) 537-5368
Final Exam Date: Wednesday, 3/25, 6-7:50 PM (in our classroom.)
Exam Date: Wednesday 2/11.
Office Hours: 12-1 and 3-6 PM on Tuesdays.
Course Website: http://www.math.csusb.edu/faculty/dunn/372-151/372-151.html
(a copy of this syllabus may be found there)

General Information

1. Information on Grading: The grading will be on a standard percentage basis, with the ranges of A for 90-100%, B for 80-89%, C for 70-79%, etc. The grades will be computed as follows:

   Homework: 30%
   Midterm: 30%
   Final Exam: 40%

2. Course content: Permutations and combinations, recurrence relations with applications and topics in graph theory. As such, we shall cover most of Chapter 1, the first two sections of Chapter 2 (concerning graph theory), and most of Chapters 5-7 (concerning enumeration and recurrence relations). We also perhaps also cover several other sections, time permitting.

3. Student Learning Outcomes: The CSUSB Mathematics Department is committed to developing and measuring the outcomes of our teaching efforts. Please see the following website for a list of these outcomes:


The student learning outcomes for this course include Outcomes 1.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 4.1:
Outcome 1.3: Students will achieve proficiency in modeling with mathematics.
Outcome 3.4: Students will be able to reflect on and learn from previous problems.
Outcome 3.5: Students will be able to evaluate reasonableness of proposed results using estimation and context.
Outcome 4.1: Students will demonstrate mathematical communication skills using appropriate mathematical vocabulary and references.

4. Information on Homework: In class, we will cover sections from the book, and once we do enough work to justify handing it in, a due date will be given (in class), along with what sections you are to hand in. The homework grade will count for 30% of your final grade, and the smallest of your homework scores will be dropped.

5. About completing homework: For each assignment, you may hand your work in alone, or as part of a group. Each person’s name in the group must appear at the beginning of the work handed in. You don’t have to work in a group, but anything you hand in that is done jointly with another person MUST share their name, and it must be for the entire assignment. That means that you CANNOT copy another person’s work and hand it in as your own, rather, simply work with that person to complete the assignment and put all of the names of the people down who collaborated on the work. I really don’t care if the entire class just hands in one assignment with everyone’s name on it, but only if everyone worked to produce that assignment. I understand that some answers/proofs may be remarkably similar, but if I review any work and find work to have obviously been copied, this is a violation of the academic honesty policies, and both groups will receive a 0 for the entire assignment. In addition, this 0 is exempt from being your “lowest score” and so you have to live with it. The 2nd violation of this rule will result in an F for the course, and I will file a report with the appropriate office on campus. My reasoning for doing this is twofold: I encourage collaboration amongst you and hope to see it. On the other hand, it is not allowable to simply copy one answer or proof for everyone to hand in as their own. So the first goal in these “joint” homework assignments is for you to learn how to collaborate and discuss mathematics together (without me needing to lead the discussion). The second goal is to teach everyone what is and is not okay when it comes to collaboration, and this is why obviously copied answers will be considered a plagiarism, and will be dealt with according to university policy.

So my suggestion would be to find a group of people you want to work with (it can be as large as you like, or, you can work independently), and set up regular meeting times where you discuss your solutions and dole out the responsibilities of who will contribute what to the homework assignment. It is in your best interest to fully understand your colleagues’ work for two reasons: First, you may see a flaw in their arguments, and their missed points from their work translates into your missed points for you as well, since the score is shared among group members. Second, you’ll all be taking a midterm and final individually, and the reason I assign what I do is entirely to prepare you for those two events. You will not pass the course with only a good homework score.

6. The Exam: There will be one midterm exam which begins at the start of class. The date is above, and will take the entire class time that day – don’t assume the test is during the last hour and come late.

7. The Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative, at the date given above.

8. General information regarding the class:
(a) Prerequisite. Passing grade in Math 213, or, all of Math 211, 262, and 272 with a passing grade.

(b) Cell phones and attendance. Quite frankly, I don’t care if you spend all day text messaging your friends in class—just don’t be disruptive. But if that’s all you are going to do in class, please just don’t come. I don’t have an attendance policy (except for administrative drops the first two weeks of the term), and so just don’t come to class if you’re not going to listen—it doesn’t count against your grade, although if you skip classes it will be your responsibility to find out what you missed. PLEASE save yourself the embarrassment of your cell phone going off by turning it on silent before class starts (not vibrate; turn it to silent). It’s embarrassing to you, and disruptive to the class. I’m pretty easy going, but matters of respect to each other are very important to me—please keep this in mind.

(c) If you are in need of an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this class, please contact Services to Students with Disabilities at UH-183, (909)537-5238.

(d) Please refer to the university policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism. I endorse these policies and generally have no tolerance towards any and all acts of academic dishonesty or plagiarism—NONE.

(e) In general, I think this course is going to be awesome! I really can’t stress enough how important it will be to stay on top of your homework and to see me when you have difficulties. This is the only reason I have office hours, and, unless there is an unavoidable conflict, I will always be there. Email (not phone) is the best way to contact me, as I check it often. Good luck, and ROCK ON!!!