

# Math 1A

PDP Section 214

Rob Bayer, Fall 2008

**The Basics** We'll meet Tuesdays and Thursday from 2:10-4:30 in 230C Stephens Hall. The ccn for this course is 54183, but you probably won't be able to actually register yourself due to the way PDP sets up sections. Instead, if you don't show up as registered by the time we meet Thursday of next week, come talk to me and we'll make sure to get you in.

**Office Hours** I'll have office hours on Mondays from 2-3 and also on Wednesdays from 10-11 in 1060 Evans, so please, please, please come see me if you have any questions about anything. Sarah will also be holding office hours, with times to be posted on my website (see below) as soon as they're available.

**Website** Quiz solutions, worksheets, handouts, office hours, email addresses, etc can all be found at my website: [math.berkeley.edu/~rbayer](http://math.berkeley.edu/~rbayer).

**Grading** Your grade will be calculated the same way as everyone else's in Prof. Hald's class, with the following important exception: homework for this section **will be graded for accuracy** as well as completeness.

**Worksheets and Group Work** Don't bother buying the worksheets from Copy Central. We won't be using them. We **will**, however, spend the vast majority of our class time doing work in small groups. Not only will this let you tackle more challenging problems, but learning to verbally express your mathematical ideas to others is just as important as knowing the math itself.

**Collaboration & Calculators** I strongly encourage you to form study groups and work on the homework together. However, the you **must** do the actual writing of your solutions individually and no collaboration of any kind is permitted on the quizzes or exams. As far as calculators go, you are free to use them on the homeworks, but try not to get addicted as they are **not** permitted on the quizzes or exams.

**Showing Your Work** Starting with this course and continuing for the rest of your mathematical career, you are expected to show your work and justify your answers. Not only will this give you the opportunity for partial credit, but learning how to formally express yourself in mathematical writing is one of the more important things you can take away from this class.

## Some General Advice

- Math is **not** a spectator sport. Rolling up your sleeves and grabbing some chalk is really the only good way to learn it, and the more problems you've done, the more comfortable you'll be when you see new ones on exams and quizzes. Along with that goes:
- **Speak up!** If I write something on the board or say something that doesn't quite make sense, please feel free to yell at me. I'm always happy to try explaining something another way, or to re-write something that is completely illegible (trust me, you'll see!), or do another example problem. Plus, I guarantee there's at least one other person in class who's in the same spot.
- Don't fall behind. This class moves very quickly, and falling behind for even a few days can be extremely dangerous. Both Sarah and I are here to help, so please come find one of us if you ever don't fully grasp something. Heck, come find us even if you do know what's going on and we'll be more than happy to help you understand it even better.
- Take notes, both in lecture and in discussion section. Not only will it help you to pay attention in class, but there are a number of places where the textbook's explanation can be a little lacking, and having two other explanations to fall back on can be a real help.
- Come see me! If for no other reason than to save me from sitting bored in my office for 2 hours a week.