

Math 32

Robertson Bayer, Fall 2009

The Basics We'll meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:10-9:30am in 4 LeConte.

Office Hours Tuesdays 5-6, Wednesdays 12-1, Thursdays 10-11, all in 1095 Evans. If those times don't work for you, please feel free to drop me an email at rbayer@math.berkeley.edu and we can setup an alternate time.

Website All the important information for the course, including homework assignments, dates for exams/quizzes, solutions, handouts, and announcements, can be found at math.berkeley.edu/~rbayer/09fa-32. Be sure to check it regularly.

Textbook The required textbook is Precalculus: A Problems Oriented Approach, 6e, by David Cohen. You should be able to find it at the bookstore, Ned's, or your favorite online seller.

Grading

- **Homework (0%):** Homework will not be collected and is not officially a part of your grade. However, historical evidence shows there is a very strong correlation between doing the homework and doing well on the quizzes/midterms.
- **Quizzes (15%):** 20 minute quizzes will be given most Wednesdays (see course website for official schedule) and will be loosely based off the corresponding homeworks. Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.
- **Midterms (50%):** Your better midterm will count 30%, with the other one counting 20%. Both midterms will be in-class, and the dates are available on the course website. You should expect the midterms to be more difficult than the quizzes.
- **Final (35%):** The final will be on Wednesday, December 16, from 12:30-3:30pm. Note that you **must** take the final at this time.

Weighted averages of 90+ will receive at least an A-, 80+ will be at least a B-, and 70+ at least a C-. Note that these all say **at least**—depending on how the course goes, it is possible (but not guaranteed) that these cutoffs could be adjusted in your favor.

Collaboration By far the best way to learn math is to discuss it with other people, and to that end I **strongly** encourage you to form study groups and work on the homework together. However, no collaboration of any kind is permitted on the quizzes or exams.

Cheat Sheets and Calculators No cheat sheets or calculators will be allowed on any of the quizzes or exams. However, I will provide you with whatever formulas I think might be useful but not worth memorizing. These formula sheets will be available online before the relevant exam.

Makeups Except in exceptional circumstances, there will be no makeups of any kind for any portion of the class. If you have some kind of extenuating circumstance, please talk to me or your GSI as soon as possible so we can make arrangements.

Special Arrangements If you have arrangements with DSP for any special testing accommodations, please let me or your GSI know as soon as possible.

Some General Advice

- Math is **not** a spectator sport. Rolling up your sleeves and grabbing some chalk (or a pencil) is really the only good way to learn it. Plus, the more problems you've done, the more comfortable you'll be when you see new ones on exams and quizzes.
- **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.
- Come see us! Office hours are a great time to ask questions, get another explanation, or just make sure you're understanding everything so **please** make use of them.