

# Math 55-2

Robertson Bayer, Summer 2009

**The Basics** We'll meet MTuWThF from 2:10-4pm in 3 Evans, with a ten minute break somewhere in the middle. For reasons that remain obscure, the University divides the class into "lecture" and "discussion" sections; no such distinction will be made in practice and thus you must be registered for **both** portions of the class.

**Office Hours** Tuesdays 1-2, Wednesdays 1-2, Thursdays 4-5, all in 1060 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/09su-55](http://math.berkeley.edu/~rbayer/09su-55). Be sure to check it regularly.

**Textbook** The required textbook is Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications, 6e, by Kenneth Rosen.

## Grading

- Homework (10%): Homework will be due **at the start of class** most Tuesdays and Thursdays. While I **strongly** encourage you to do all the assigned problems, you only need to hand in the ones marked with a \*.
- Quizzes (15%): 20-30 minute quizzes will be given most Wednesdays and Fridays and will be loosely based off the corresponding homeworks. Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.
- Midterms (40%): Your better midterm will count 25%, with the other one counting 15%. 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 2 hours, in-class, and will cover the entire course.

Weighted averages of 90+ will receive at least an A-, 80+ will be at least a B-, and 70+ at least a C-.

**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.

**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, and late homework will not be accepted. If you have some kind of extenuating circumstance, please talk to me as soon as possible so we can make arrangements.

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

## 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.
- This class moves fast! Since we are compressing a 15 week, 44-day course into 8 weeks and 38 days, falling behind for even a day can be very dangerous. Also, while most of the material is in the book, it is not my goal to simply copy the textbook onto the blackboard, so be sure you understand both the book and the lecture material.
- Come see me! 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.