

Syllabus for Math 151, section H1

Instructor: Vladimir Scheffer.

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 3:20 pm to 4:40 pm in Hill 246 on Busch Campus.

This is an honors section of Math 151. We will have the same group final exam as the other sections of Math 151, but the lectures will have examples that are somewhat more difficult than the examples presented in regular sections of Math 151. We meet three times a week: Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 6:20 pm in SEC 203, Thursday 5:00 pm to 6:20 pm in SEC 202. On Monday and Wednesday we will have lectures. On Thursdays the class period will be divided into two parts: (1) A 30 minute discussion of homework problems from the textbook. (2) A 50 minute workshop session.

A workshop session is an opportunity for you to work in small groups (3 or 4 students in each group) on problems that are a bit more challenging or longer than the usual textbook problems. You will be given a paper with several problems. You will try to solve these problems as a group, with verbal and written communication within each group. Ideally, the classroom becomes rather noisy with animated discussions. However, this is not the time to talk about unrelated subjects, such as dinner. At the end of the workshop session, I will tell you to write up one of the problems. You will have one week to write down the solution to the problem. This writeup should be done in your own words, without consultation. The exposition of the writeup is very important. Words must be spelled correctly. We insist that you write in complete sentences and that the sentences be connected into coherent paragraphs. Your textbook is a good example of proper technical writing. You will notice that every sentence in the text has a verb. There are no sentence fragments in your text. On page 21 you will find the good sentence “The function $f(x) = x^m$ is called the power function with exponent m ”. Note that the author did not write something like “ $f(x) = x^m$: Power function with exponent m ”, which has no verb in it. The workshop writeup is due at the start of the next Thursday class. The workshops will be graded for exposition as well as mathematical accuracy.

A great deal of information will be posted on the Math 151-152 website:

<http://www.math.rutgers.edu/courses/151-152>

You should consult the material under the heading “Math 151-152 Fall 2008 Information”. The link “Math 151 Syllabus & Suggested Textbook Problems” gives you the approximate schedule of lectures and some exercises from the text. I will be assigning some of these exercises.

There will be two midterm exams and a group final exam. The words “group final exam” mean that all sections of Math 151 take the same exam at the same time. The expression “group final exam” **does not** mean that you work in small groups during the exam. A few years ago, a student thought that the final exam was a three hour workshop. The final exam is worth 200 points. Each midterm exam counts for 100 points. You get 100 points from workshop writeups, 50 from quizzes and 50 from textbook homework. Thus, the maximum possible course total is 600 points. We will attach an official formula sheet to each exam. This formula sheet will be posted on the Math 151-152 web site. You are not allowed to bring your own formula sheet. Calculators are not allowed during exams. Exams are closed book. Review sheets will be posted before each exam.