

# Math 151 Workshop, Fall 2017

**Instructor** Matt Hohertz

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**Office hours** WR 9:15-10:15am, Hill Center 622

**Meeting dates** All Mondays during which courses are normally held

NOTE. This syllabus is subject to change.

## Format

During the first 20-30 minutes of the workshop I will answer questions and do problems from the text; during the remaining time you will work on assigned *workshop problems* in groups of 3-4, one of which I will select at the end of the period for you to write up and hand in at the beginning of the next workshop (see the next section).

## Workshop write-ups

Your workshop write-up ought to explain your solution to the assigned problem in a form which integrates mathematical expressions into an essay with complete English sentences – see the example handed out in the first week for an example. In particular, you must explain every significant mathematical step with a complete sentence.

I will assign a grade – worth 50% of your total write-up grade – for the quality of your writing. In order to get a passing grade (D or higher) for writing quality, you must

- use complete sentences and essay form.

In order to get a B or higher for writing quality, you must

- write with sufficient enough clarity that I have no difficulty following your argument.

You will get an A for writing quality if your write-up

- can be easily understood and contains just math and complete sentences;
- demonstrates that you understand the nuances of the problem; and
- is clear, fluent, and detailed to such a degree that a person with your level of knowledge could learn to correctly solve the problem using only what you have written.

## **Allowable formats**

- It is recommended, although not required, that write-ups be typed up in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .
- Handwritten write-ups must be legible; work that is illegible after a reasonable attempt at comprehension will not be scored.
- Only physical (paper) copies that are handed in during the workshop will be accepted.
- Unstapled multi-page documents will not be accepted. Neither paper clipping nor folding corners together is an acceptable substitute for stapling.

## **Due dates**

- Workshop problems will be distributed exclusively in paper form and during the workshop period; to encourage regular attendance, I will not make copies available, nor tell which problem is to be written up, online or outside the workshop period. (If you were ill for the workshop period then you can get what you need from a classmate.)

- You must hand in write-ups by the end of the workshop **for which you are registered**.
- Late work will not be accepted for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER. **Please do not ask for exceptions to this policy.** (As a means of correction for emergencies, however, your two lowest workshop grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.)

## Grade appeals

If you feel that I have made an *error* in grading one of your write-ups, then you may make an appeal **by 5 pm on the Monday after** the workshop was returned. This deadline is absolutely firm and applies regardless of when you actually pick your workshop up.

Appeals should be brought on the basis of errors in giving mathematical correctness points only; please do not appeal writing quality grades or ask for “mercy points.”

## Grading

Write-ups are graded on a scale of up to 50 points.

You will receive up to 25 points for **mathematical correctness**; these points will be enumerated on a rubric.

You will also receive a letter grade for **writing quality** based on my overall impression of your work; letter grades correspond to the following percentages:

A	100%
B	85%
C	75%
D	65%
F	50%

Then your final grade is determined by the nearest integer to

$$\sqrt{(2 \cdot MC + 1) \left( \frac{WQ}{2} - 1 \right) + 1}$$

where  $MC$  signifies your mathematical correctness score and  $WQ$  your writing quality percentage.