Math 105: Introduction to Finite Mathematics  
Spring 2007 Syllabus

Lecture   TR 9:50–11:20 in Copley 243

Instructor  Brian Sutton  
Email: bsutton@rmc.edu  
Office: Copley 235  
Phone: 752-3157  
Web page: http://faculty.rmc.edu/bsutton/

Office hours  Office hours are by appointment. I am available Monday 1:30–4:30, Tuesday 11:30–4:30, Wednesday 2:15–4:30, and Thursday 11:30–4:30. To schedule an appointment, choose a preferred time and contact me. The appointment will be definite after I confirm. I will typically leave appointments open to other students from the same course. If you want to discuss anything in private, please let me know when you request the appointment.

Supplemental instruction  Supplemental instruction is a great resource. Mathematically-inclined students will be available several hours per week.

Course web site  http://faculty.rmc.edu/bsutton/105-2007-spring/

Course description  From the catalog: “The course provides an introduction to several areas of finite mathematics which have numerous applications, particularly in the social sciences. Topics will include decision theory, discrete probability, linear programming, matrices, and linear systems.”


Topics covered  The course will likely cover sections 1-3, 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, and 7-5 of the text. See the course web site for a schedule of readings.
Grading policies  The semester grade will be calculated as follows.

Final exam  34%
Test 1      17%
Test 2      17%
Test 3      17%
Quizzes     10%
“Backward homework”  5%

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90–100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83–86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70–72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73–76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60–62</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67–69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0–59</td>
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</tbody>
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“Backward homework”  Before coming to class, you will be required to read a section of the textbook and to work a problem. This homework is “backward” in two senses: You must complete it before we cover the material in lecture, and it must be wrong. The idea is this: make an honest attempt at a problem, realize that your first attempt did not work (as is almost always the case in mathematics), and write a narrative explaining what happened and what you would try to fix it. If you are knowledgeable or lucky enough to find a correct solution on the first attempt, then you must go back and break your solution, explaining how you broke it.

Credit is all or nothing. The most important thing is a nice write-up. The lowest two grades will be dropped. Backward homework may be submitted early by sliding it under the door of Copley 235. Include the date and time of submission to receive credit.

Ungraded homework  In addition to the “backward homework,” several problems will be assigned for each section. These problems will not be graded.

Quizzes  The best way to prepare for the quizzes is to complete the ungraded homework problems.

The lowest three quiz grades will be dropped.

Final exam  The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, May 24, from 8:30 to 11:30. A make-up final can be given only with the permission of the Dean of the College. Failure to take the final exam will result in an automatic F for the semester.

Attendance/excuse policies  Minor-to-moderate illness and vacation are not valid excuses for missing a test. In particular, a test extension will not be granted solely on the basis of an email note from the R-MC health center.

Because the lowest three quiz grades and the lowest two backward homework grades will be dropped, extensions for these will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances.
Calculators  Four function (+, −, ×, ÷) and “scientific” calculators are allowed. Graphing calculators, calculators that work with matrices, and cell phone calculators are not allowed. If you are unsure if your calculator is acceptable, please ask.

Academic integrity  The following statement on academic integrity, quoted from http://www.rmc.edu/facstaff/syllabi_guidelines.asp, applies to this course:

- The College’s Code of Academic Integrity sets out a list of prohibited behavior, including plagiarism, cheating, and tampering with or destroying College property (including computers in computer labs). The most common act of academic misconduct is plagiarism, which is defined as “Passing off a source’s information, ideas, or words as your own by omitting to acknowledge that source—an act of lying, cheating, and stealing.” (Gordon Harvey, Writing with Sources: A Guide for Students). Any student who commits a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity will be subject to the policies and procedures outlined in Fishtales. It is each student’s responsibility to read and be familiar with the Code.

Students with disabilities  The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal laws require Randolph-Macon College to provide a “reasonable accommodation” to any individual who advises us of a physical, psychological, or learning disability. If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability that requires an accommodation, you must first register with the Office for Disability Support Services, located in the Higgins Academic Center.