

MATH 101: MATH AND ITS APPLICATIONS

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2014

Instructor: Li-Mei Lim	Office: Hall College Center
Email: llim@simons-rock.edu	Office Hours: TBD and by appointment
Website: http://hope.simons-rock.edu/~llim	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course develops the mathematical and quantitative skills required of an effective citizen in our complex society. The emphasis is on the interpretation of material utilizing mathematics, as opposed to developing simple numerical skills. Possible topics include logic, applications of elementary algebra to common practical problems, exponential growth with applications to financial and social issues, probability and statistics, and the use of graphs and tables for the presentation and interpretation of data and information. Instruction in the use of calculator and computer to facilitate calculations is an integral part of the course.

GOALS

Simon's Rock has a number of educational goals, including developing in each student:

- the ability to speak and write with confidence, clarity, and precision
- the ability to read and think critically—to recognize assumptions, weigh evidence, test assertions, examine the elements and merits of an argument—and, thus, the ability to learn and think independently
- the ability to understand and interpret graphic and numerical data, to evaluate a statistical argument, and to use appropriate tools effectively
- knowledge of some of the most influential works of Western culture

This course is specifically designed to meet these educational goals. There will be regular assignments, in and out of class, requiring students to read and respond, orally and in writing, to material from a variety of sources.

TEXTBOOK

There is no textbook for the course. Any assignments and readings will be linked on the course webpage.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- **Homework:** There will generally be one or two homework assignments per week. These will be due *at the beginning of class* on the due date given.
- **Labs:** There will be six lab assignments. These will be mostly done during lab sessions in class, although you may have to finish them or write things up outside class.
- **Projects:** There will be three project reports. All three projects must be completed in order to pass the class.
- **Exams:** There are three in-class exams. There is no final. The exams are tentatively scheduled for *September 17, October 29, and December 8.*

Final grades will be determined using the following breakdown:

Homework	15%
Labs (6)	15%
Projects (3)	30%
Exams (3)	40%

ATTENDANCE AND LATE WORK

Attendance is considered an integral part of the class, and in accordance with college policy, a student will receive a warning after a third absence and is subject to suspension after the fifth absence. Please note that habitual tardiness may be counted as an absence. If an absence is anticipated for illness or religious reasons, the instructor should be notified in advance.

Late labs and projects will be penalized 5% per day, and will not be accepted more than one week after the due date. Late homework assignments will not be accepted without advance notice.

EMAIL

You may email me with questions or to request appointments to meet. Please allow 24 hours for a response before emailing me again; I will try to respond promptly, but I do not check email obsessively. Keep this in mind if you are emailing about something time-sensitive. In addition, keep in mind that communicating math via email is difficult, so it is usually best to reserve math questions for office hours or other in-person appointments.

DISABILITY SUPPORT

If you are a student with a disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact the instructor or Jeannie Altshuler in the Win Student Resource Commons.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Collaboration in this class is encouraged, and you are more than welcome to discuss readings and assignments with your classmates. However, assignments must be written up individually and you must acknowledge the ideas of others or any help you receive on work which is turned in. You are expected to follow all college policies regarding Academic Integrity. Any form of cheating on an assignment or exam will result in a grade of zero, and serious offenses may result in automatic failure for the course, in accordance with college policy.

GETTING HELP

To get the most out of this class, it is important that you ask questions when you have them and get all the help you need. Here is a list of suggestions and resources.

- **Ask questions during class.** You are strongly encouraged to ask questions during class. Don't be afraid to look stupid; chances are someone else has the same question.
- **Come to office hours.** Office hours are great for getting more one-on-one help. Come ask questions about homework, exams, or topics from class.
- **Take advantage of tutoring.** Our class tutor will hold review sessions once a week. You are encouraged to go and ask any questions you might have. You can also go to Think Tank Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 7-10pm in the Informal Lounge of the Student Union, where math and science tutors will be on hand to help you out. It's a great place to do homework or study, whether or not you have a question. You can also sign up for individual tutors. Ask for more information.
- **Form study groups.** Your peers are a wonderful resource. Explaining your work to others will help you to learn the material better, while helping your classmates too. It's win-win! Just be sure to write solutions up on your own.