

Math 101 - Communicating With Numbers

Fall 2012

Basic Info:

Instructor: Dr. Nathan Reff
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Office: Myers Hall 109B
Phone: 607.871.2818
Office Hours: MTF 9:30-10:30, R 11:30-12:30
Course Web Page: <http://people.alfred.edu/~reff/MATH101/>
Course Meetings: MTWF 2:20-3:10 in Myers Hall 336
Text: *Using and Understanding Mathematics:
A Quantitative Reasoning Approach, 5th Ed.*
by Bennett and Briggs (ISBN: 0321652797)



Course Goals: This purpose of this course is to prepare you for other college courses with quantitative components. Furthermore, this course will prepare you for the math you will likely encounter in your daily life! Topics include ratios and proportions, proportionality as distinct from proportions, constant of proportionality, rates, percentages, total change vs. percent change, and handling data.

Technology: A calculator is required for this course. Any scientific calculator is recommended, but if you have another model come talk to me. Please bring your calculator to every class. You must have your own calculator.

Grade Distribution: Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Homework, etc.	10%
Chapter Quizzes	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Comprehensive Final Exam	30%

You also have the opportunity to earn participation points which will be added to your course score. You can earn these points by answering questions, asking relevant questions, etc. Coming to class is expected and will not get you these participation points alone. I would like everyone to be a part of the classroom discussions.

Borderline cases of grades can be adjusted up or down based on your attendance, class participation, homework, and trend (patterns in the grades as the semester progresses, for example, steady improvement is good, but a weak final exam is bad).

Grade Conversion:

A	93–100	C	73–76
A–	90–92	C–	70–72
B+	87–89	D+	67–69
B	83–86	D	63–66
B–	80–82	F	0–62
C+	77–79		

Homework: Homework problems will be assigned daily/weekly and will be collected before each Chapter Quiz (see below). You must bring all of your homework to every lecture. Please make sure your homework is *neat* (legible, not torn out of a spiral bound notebook, etc.) and *stapled* when you turn it in. It is *very* important that you keep working on problems throughout the course. There is an old saying that “math is not a spectator sport” and there is definitely a lot of truth to this. I recommend working on your own and also with other classmates (but make sure you are turning in your own work). If you are working on a problem and get stuck, make a note of it and remember to *ask questions*. I encourage *everyone* to come to office hours and visit the help room frequently.

Other than assigned problems you should be reading the text every day and keeping up with the pace of the course. Keep in mind that it your responsibility to read each chapter before an exam.

Chapter Quizzes: There will be a quiz at the end of each chapter. A great way to prepare yourself is to take the Quick Quiz at the end of each chapter. Quizzes will usually cover lecture material and homework problems. The questions may even be taken directly from the homework set, or minor perturbations of the homework problems. This will hopefully give you even more encouragement to do the homework. There will be no make up quizzes.

Class Work: Occasionally worksheets and other classwork will be assigned. Generally these assignments will carry the same weight as a homework or quiz for the course.

Exams: There will be one midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam during the semester. The tentative date for the midterm exam is Friday October 5 during the normal class time. The final exam is on Wednesday December 12, 1:15PM-3:15PM in Meyers Hall 336.

Please see the course website for more details. Tests will be more challenging than the quizzes so you need to study accordingly. However doing the homework and reviewing the quizzes and other classwork is the best way to prepare yourself.

Quiz/Test/Final Exam Policy: Only your approved calculator may be used (when allowed). Hence, no cell phones, computers, mp3 players, slide rules, abaci, Addiators, Napier’s bones, Difference/Analytical Engines, Pascalinas, Antikythera mechanisms, etc. may be used. In other words I want you to only use your brain, calculator and the hard work you put into this course to earn your grade. You may not talk to each other in the classroom while other students are working, even if you are done. Please keep your eyes on your own paper. Do not look at notes, books, etc. while working. Work through the problem on your own and you will do fine (and save us both a lot of trouble).

Cheating and Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. It is disrespectful to the University, your classmates and to me. Any form of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. Alfred University’s policies on Academic Dishonesty (Unethical Practices) (see Policy 700) can be found at <http://my.alfred>.

edu/index.cfm/fuseaction/academic_policies.academic_regulation_ug.cfm.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend and be a part of every class meeting. I will keep a record of your attendance, participation and preparation. I will allow a maximum of three unexcused absences without penalty. Excessive absences will noticeably affect your final grade. This course will move rather quickly so I suggest you only miss class for a good reason (meaning an excused absence). If you must miss a class it is your responsibility to learn the missed material quickly to keep up with the course.

Excused Absences: If you cannot attend one of the exams you should submit a written reason for your absence **in advance** of the exam date. I would appreciate letting me know at least 3 days in advance if you are going to miss a class. In emergency situations please send me an email or leave me a voice message. The decision to allow make-up exams will be made on a case by case basis, but proper documentation is always necessary. No make-up exams will be given without advance notice. If you miss a quiz, exam or final with an unexcused absence, you will receive a 0 for that particular assignment.

Students with Disabilities: Alfred University is committed to upholding and maintaining all aspects of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact Dr. Aubrey Elmore at the Office of Special Academic Services located in Crandall Hall, or call (607) 871-2148. Any information regarding your disability will remain confidential. Many accommodations require early planning, therefore requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible. Any requests for accommodations will be reviewed in a timely manner to determine their appropriateness to this setting.

Tutor Services/Requests: The office of Special Academic Services offers personalized help in the form of individual and group tutoring. Please contact Beth Niles at (607) 871-2148 for more information. Also, please contact me for additional support.

Extra Credit: I will not be giving anyone extra credit. This way everyone has the same advantage in the course.

Tentative Schedule:

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		FRIDAY	
Aug 27th	1	28th	2	29th	3	31st	4
Sep 3rd	5	4th	6	5th	7	7th	8
10th	9	11th	10	12th	11	14th	12

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
17th 13	18th 14	19th 15	21st 16
24th 17	25th 18	26th 19	28th 20
Oct 1st 21	2nd 22	3rd 23	5th 24 MIDTERM EXAM
8th 25	9th 26	10th 27	12th 28
15th No Classes - Midterm Break	16th No Classes - Midterm Break	17th 29	19th 30
22nd 31	23rd 32 Withdraw Deadline	24th 33	26th 34
29th 35	30th 36	31st 37	Nov 2nd No Math Classes
5th 38	6th 39	7th 40	9th 41
12th 42	13th 43	14th 44	16th 45
19th 46	20th 47	21st No Classes - Thanksgiving	23rd No Classes - Thanksgiving
26th 48	27th 49	28th 50	30th 51
Dec 3rd 52	4th 53	5th 54	7th 55

Final Exam: Wednesday December 12, 1:15PM-3:15PM in Meyers Hall 336.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus without prior notice.