Math 252   Syllabus   Spring 2017

The Instructor

Dr. Robb T. Koether

Office: Bagby 114

Office phone: 223-6207

Home phone: 392-8604 (before 11:00 p.m.)

Office hours: M 1:30 - 3:20, T 2:30 - 3:20, W 1:30 - 3:20, F 1:30 - 2:20, other hours by appointment.

E-mail: `rkoether@hsc.edu`

Web page: `http://people.hsc.edu/faculty-staff/robbk`

The Class

The class meets in Bagby 111 at 10:30 MWF.

There is no text for the course. Notes will be handed out in class.

The web page for this course is at

`http://people.hsc.edu/faculty-staff/robbk/Math252`

Prerequisites

- Math 142.

- A desire to gain proficiency in mathematical exposition.

The mathematical content of this course is elementary. The focus of the course is on written and oral arguments and presentation. In a way, this course could be called Mathematical Rhetoric. You will learn to write well organized arguments that proceed logically from the stated premises to the conclusion. When your work is graded, half the credit will be based on mathematical accuracy (logic) and half will be based on the presentation.

Grading

Grades will be based on in-class presentations, collected homework problems, tests, and the final exam. In the final average, these will have the following weights:

Category	Weight
Presentations	20%
Homework	20%
Tests	40%
Final exam	20%

Class Presentations

Each Friday I will assign a set of problems to be presented in class at the board or on the projector (if you are ambitious). On Wednesday and Friday of the following week, I will take volunteers, who may choose which problem to present. In the absence of volunteers, I will call on someone at random to present a problem of their choosing.

In your presentations, your explanations should be clear enough that anyone with the proper background can follow the logic. Each presentation will be graded on the following scale.

Correctness	Score	Presentation	Score
The mathematics is correct	5	The presentation is well organized	5
Minor mathematical errors	4	Some organizational problems	4
A significant mathematical error	3	Not well organized	3
Major gaps in logic	2	Many organizational problems	2
Minimal mathematical content	1	Little effort to organize	1
No attempt made	0	No attempt made	0

Homework

Each Friday I will assign several problems as homework for the following week (not for presentations). On the following Friday, I will collect the problems and grade them. These problems should be written up in LaTeX and printed in PDF format to be turned in on paper.

Each homework problem will be graded on the same scale as the presentations.

Tests

You should make every conceivable effort to be present and prepared for an hour test. If you do not feel that you are prepared, you must take the test anyway. The only valid excuses for missing a test are serious illnesses and unavoidable emergencies which can be verified. If you foresee that you must miss a test, then you should make arrangements, before the absence, to take the test. If you miss a test for a reason that is less than compelling, you will not be allowed to take the test later. If you

miss a test, it is essential that you contact me and make arrangements at the earliest possible moment. Failure to follow this policy will invalidate any excuse. The test schedule is as follows:

Test	Date
#1	Fri, Feb 17
#2	Fri, Mar 24
#3	Fri, Apr 21

Final exam

The final exam will be cumulative. It will be given on Friday, May 5, at 9:00 a.m. in Bagby 111. Everyone must take it and it will not be rescheduled. Read the Examination policy in the Academic Catalogue.

Mathematical Typesetting Software

Homework problems that are turned in for grading are to be typeset using LATEX. There are many free LATEXeditors and compilers available on the internet. The computers in Babgy 120 have TeXMaker installed. I personally prefer to use TexStudio. Each of these programs is a user-friendly front end and they all accept exactly the same input. They all use the same back end, which is the TeX compiler, and the all produce exactly the same output.

Attendance

Read the Class Attendance policy in the Academic Catalogue. Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class. If you arrive late, you will be counted absent. If that happens and you would like to be marked present, see me after class and I will mark you "late," not "absent." Otherwise, late arrivals and absences will all count as absences. Each late arrival counts as half an absence. When assigning final grades, attendance (including late arrivals) will be taken into account.

The only valid excuses for missing class are

- An illness which includes a visit to the Health Center or a doctor

- An approved college activity

- A true emergency

- Any absence excused by the Dean of Students

Absences	Action
0 - 2	Grade bonus (+3 points if $60 \leq$ your grade ≤ 97)
3 - 4	Neutral
5 - 6	Grade penalty (-3 points if $63 \leq$ your grade ≤ 100)
> 6	Withdrawal

A warning letter will be sent out after the 6th absence.

The last day to drop a course without a grade of W is Friday, March 31.

Classroom Etiquette

- Do not leave the room during the class. If necessary, use the bathroom before coming to class. If you are thirsty, get a drink before class.

- Do not use any electronic devices in class.