

First, a heads up! I chose the mathematical topics for this class based on their connection to art. They do not all build upon each other as happens in a more traditional math class, nor are they of the same complexity. Also, I like to see what people can do when given the chance. For these reasons, the problems on the homework vary quite a bit in their level of difficulty. Some weeks, the entire problem set may be fairly straightforward (which is not quite the same thing as being easy); other weeks may be a bit more mixed. Furthermore, some weeks the problem sets will be fairly long, while other weeks they'll be shorter.

When you encounter a problem or an entire concept that seems difficult to you, don't freak out and don't skip it. Take advantage of my office hours and peer tutoring.

Before going any further, I should say a word about peer tutors: Since most people who take this class are not math majors, the tutor(s) are unlikely to have thought much about math since they took this class 2 years ago. Their job is to help *you* figure out how to approach a problem, if you have some ideas. If you are feeling like you don't even know where to start, then you are better off coming to my office hours – preferably several days before the problem set is due. If you wait until shortly before the problem set is due, we may not be able to get through as much as you would like in the time we have.

Here are some quick guidelines for how you should achieve your finished problem set:

- **Write the solutions in your own words:** You may work with others, but you are responsible for understanding the solution to each problem.
- **Cite anybody you worked with:** friend, tutor, etc. See Course Policies - Honor Code.
- **Do not split the problems among a group of friends, or a homework group:** Every student must try every problem. Allocating different problems to be done by different people not only cheats yourself but is taking credit for someone else's work, which is a violation of the Honor Code.
- **Summarize the problem** before showing the solution. You really do learn much more from the homework (and lessen chances of misunderstanding the intent of the problem) if you copy or summarize the problem first. This also makes your homework a useful study tool.
- **Your homework should not simply consist of the final answer to each question assigned.** You learn by explaining, so include the work or mathematical reasoning behind your answers. You will not receive full credit for an answer with no work or explanation.
- **Make your homework handsome and readable.** Homework that is easy to read puts the grader (in this case, me) in a good mood and shows you care. One way to do this is to use pencil rather than pen. If you must use pen, only use one side of the paper. (Feel free to use the clean side of paper that's been once through the printer.)
- **Leave space between the problems, and within each problem, leave space between ideas.** This not only looks neater, but gives the grader (me) room to respond. Do not try to fit your entire problem set onto one page. While the trees would undoubtedly benefit from your economy, our eyes do not.

- **Staple your papers together.** Please do not use paperclips, or fold over the corners in the vain hope that this will keep your assignment together. It will only get caught up with other assignments, not to mention making your assignment unsightly. The grader will take off a couple points for a problem set that is not stapled.
 - **You put a lot of effort into your homework—make it look like it!**
 - **Remember to put the Honor Pledge on every assignment.**
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How homework will be graded:

- Each week, I will select a few problems to be graded in detail. Each of those problems will be graded on a scale of 1-5 (or 1-10, for longer problems).
- For the rest of the problems, I will look to see whether you did them, whether you appear to have made a sincere effort, whether you followed the basic guidelines and whether the answer is easily findable. This entire secondary portion of the problem will be graded on a scale of 10 points, where 10 points is earned if it is complete, well-organized, looks fundamentally sound (whether or not it is correct), and follows the guidelines.
- I will not tell you in advance which problems will be graded in detail.
- It will be your responsibility to check the solutions to find out whether you did these problems correctly, as well as to find out how to do them.