Syllabus for Math 217
Discussion Sections 311 & 312

Term: Spring 2008
TA: Sarah R. Bockting
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- Office Hours: M 11:00-11:50, W 11:00-11:50 & 3:30-4:20
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Course Webpage: There is a large amount of information for you on Prof. Gomez’s official class webpage: http://www.math.wisc.edu/~gomez/m217/s08. Information pertaining to this discussion section, but not the lecture as a whole may be posted on http://www.math.wisc.edu/~bockting/s08math217.html. A copy of this syllabus will be posted online. The webpage will also list various course information, such as upcoming review sessions and announcements.

Discussion: The overall structure of the discussion will be roughly as follows: Each discussion will start with a short recap of important points from the previous lecture(s). Then, we will work through homework and other practice problems. This may be done in a variety of ways: I will work through the problem with help from the class, the class will be broken up into groups and work on the problem(s) together, or I will call people up to the board to work through a problem.

Discussion is the time for asking questions, so please prepare some questions before coming to class. If no one has any questions, this should mean that everyone understands the material and the extra class time may be filled with a pop quiz to test this knowledge.

If, at any point, you have a question or something is not clear, feel free to ask. There are probably other students in the room with the same questions that you have. So, don’t be embarrassed to raise your hand!

Doing mathematics involves working problems, making many mistakes, and learning from them. Because of the class structure, you will be critiquing your fellow students’ work as well as your own. It is very important that we constructively criticize others. Thus, it is highly inappropriate to pick on or mock another student for being wrong. If anyone takes such an attitude, I will discuss this with them personally. If this is not sufficient to correct the problem, that student will be punished by the loss of points, and/or the lowering of that student’s grade.

Discussion Grade: Your discussion grade contributes 10% to your overall class grade. Your discussion grade will be determined by both homework and quiz scores.

Homework: Prof. Gomez will assign weekly homework problems. In general, these problems will be collected. However, only selected problems will be graded. It is expected that your work be displayed clearly and concisely. If I cannot read your homework and easily make sense of it, it will receive no credit. An answer with no work will also not receive credit. The steps taken along the way to the correct answer are just as important as the final answer, if not moreso.

Homework will be due on Mondays at 7 PM in the box next to my office door.

As with any math class, the best (and easiest!) way to learn the material is through practice. As such, it is very strongly recommended that you do all of the assigned homework problems. Most of class time will be devoted to discussing homework problems, so do not be shy to ask questions if you are having trouble. If you are still experiencing difficulty, I suggest working through additional problems on your own. Feel free to visit me during my office hours if you have questions which cannot be answered during discussion time.

Quizzes: I will allow 5-10 minutes at the end of each class for quiz taking. Quizzes will contain problems similar to the homework and those discussed in class. There will be 5-7 quizzes throughout the semester. The following are approximate dates for quizzes: 1/30, 2/13, 3/5, 3/26, 4/23. There are no make-up quizzes.

McBurney Disability Resource Center: Any students of the McBurney Disability Resource Center who wish to discuss any accommodations with me should contact me as soon as possible.

Syllabus Changes: I reserve the right to alter this syllabus at any time. The format of the quizzes and discussion may be altered to better suit the needs of the class if I feel that it is necessary. All students will be notified via e-mail of any syllabus changes.