

Syllabus
Three Rivers Community College
MAT 135 – Topics in Contemporary Math
Fall 2009

Course Registration Number (CRN) – 30574 Sec. T02
Tuesday, Thursday 12:00-1:15 pm, Room E216

Instructor:

Roxanne N. Tisch
Office: C248
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Tuesday 10:45 – 11:45 am
Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 pm
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Course Description:

This course will expose students to topics in mathematics that are useable and relevant in today's world. Students will apply mathematical ideas while working within a social context. Examples of topics will include: concerns about the growth of the national debt, environmental issues, probability, statistical implications in our lives, and current events issues.

Required Materials:

- ◆ The required text is Understanding Our Quantitative World, Janet Andersen and Todd Swanson, MAA, 2005
- ◆ Notebook or binder
- ◆ Graph paper

Attendance:

Attendance in classes is required. *I will teach the concepts only once*; you are responsible for getting the class notes, homework, and any other assignments from another student and completing that work by the next week after any missed class. Your success in this class is dependent on group problem solving during class-time. You must be present to participate.

Attendance at exams is mandatory. You will be informed of the dates of tests at least one week in advance. Make-up exams may be given *with my prior consent*. If you must miss an exam, please speak with me before the date of the exam so that arrangements can be made.

Grading Policy:

Your grade will be based on the following items.

- ◆ Math Autobiography – Worth 40 points.
- ◆ Homework assignments – The final homework grade will be weighted as one test grade (100 points). You will have an assignment to hand in at

the end of every chapter. Assignments must be typed or neatly written. Explanations should be clear. Please be sure to use complete sentences and check your grammar and spelling.

- ◆ Mad Minutes – Mad minutes are short answer questions or exercises at the end of class. We will not necessarily have one everyday. Mad minutes are graded based on participation not the correctness of the answer. The final mad minute grade will be worth 20 points.
- ◆ Groupwork (write-ups and presentations) – Throughout the semester you will be responsible for submitting individual write-ups of problems based on group work done during class. More detail will be given later.

You will also be asked to present your solutions to the class. This should be thought of as an informal opportunity to give you experience discussing math with others. Write ups and presentations will account for 100 points of your final grade.

- ◆ Three in-class tests – Each in class test will be worth 100 points.
- ◆ Projects – You will have two individual projects throughout the semester. Each project will be worth 100 points.
- ◆ Final Reflection – Worth 40 points.

The final grade will be determined by adding the grades/averages for each category and dividing by 8. Letter grade equivalents are listed below:

Grade	Grade Points	Quality Points
A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.7
F	Below 60	0.0

College Withdrawal Policy:

You may withdraw from this class any time up to and including December 9 and you will receive a W grade on your transcript. However, you must complete a withdrawal form in the Registrar's Office at the time of withdrawal; *if you merely stop attending classes you will be assigned a grade of F.* Any eligibility for refund of tuition is based on the date that the registrar receives the withdrawal.

Disabilities Statement:

If you have a disability that may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see me as soon as possible so arrangements can be made. If you have not already done so, please contact the Learning Specialist, Chris Scarborough, at 892-5751.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor. A full copy of the college's academic integrity policy is in the school's catalog and in the student handbook.

Resources:

TASC (the combined Tutoring Center and Writing Center) is located in room. C-117.

TASC provides free **one-to-one or group tutoring** in math as well as in many other subject areas. TASC also has **textbooks** (both old and current), **videotapes**, and many **handouts** available for student use. Also, TASC's portion of the school's website has many links to other **online resources**; go to the TASC homepage at http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/ed_resources/tasc/index.htm and follow the link to "Online Resources."

One of your greatest resources is each other. I encourage you to get to know your classmates and **exchange contact information**.

Cell Phone Use:

Please turn off the ringer on all cell phones/pagers before the start of each class. If you have a situation where you absolutely must be able to take a call, please notify me before class.