

MATH 300
INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICAL IDEAS
3 UNIT(S)

LOS RIOS/CRC
SPRING 2025
SECTION # 14203, 14204

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Email is the primary and the most reliable way of contacting the instructor. When emailing, please always specify your real name (the same one as in the roster) and which class you are inquiring about. Emails omitting this information may fail to be processed.

Office: LRC 150, (916) 691-7086, MoWe 9:15 – 11:45. Please let the instructor know if these hours do not work for you, and we can try to set up an appointment (allow 2 business days for reply).

Class Meetings: Community & Athletic Center 204, TuTh 9:00 am – 11:20 am.

Required Text: *Contemporary Mathematics*, current edition, by OpenSTAX. The students are responsible for obtaining the text (digital/online version is OK) and reading every section covered in class and/or assigned for homework.

Required Materials/Tech: Any calculator, bright-colored pens, pencils, and/or highlighters.

Catalog Description: Introduction to Mathematical Ideas allows liberal arts students to meet general education mathematics requirements while exploring concepts and objects of mathematics in a meaningful way. This course is designed to show some of the essence and quality of mathematics, and to enhance precision in the evaluation and expression of ideas, thereby developing a student's quantitative reasoning skills. It is recommended primarily for students who do not plan to major in a math-related field, but may be of interest to others as well. Course content may include topics from numeration systems, logic, geometry, probability, statistics, algebraic modeling, number theory, consumer mathematics, graph theory, voting and apportionment, and perhaps others; concepts of contemporary mathematics may be covered. Emphasis is placed on the deductive process.

Methods of Instruction: Class meetings will feature a mix of lecture, discussion, quizzes/labs, and group assignments. The instructor may assign students into teams for group assignments, and reassign teams at any time during the semester. Several in-class tests will be given.

Attendance: To succeed in this course, it is crucial that you attend every class session, alert and prepared to learn. Roll will be taken for each class session, usually at the beginning of the class. If you arrive after the class has started, please enter the room quietly and get on the roster at the end of the class. If you miss more than a half of a class session for any reason, you will be considered absent for that whole session. **If you miss the total of 6% of class time or more, you may be dropped from the class** (missing one whole week will put you over 6% in most cases). These absences need not to be consecutive, and **any** class time you miss may be added to the total. Exceptions to this policy will be made **at the instructor's discretion** for documented cases of grave illness and/or family emergency. In other words, the instructor reserves the right to drop you at any time after your unexcused absences total 6% or more, regardless of any other circumstances.

If you miss the first class meeting without notifying the instructor or the division administrator in advance, you may be dropped from the class. If you have to be removed from the first class meeting due to a discipline issue, you may be dropped from the class.

By default, only the students enrolled in this class can attend the class sessions. If you are planning on bringing a visitor, you should try to notify the instructor in advance. Exceptions will be made at the instructor's discretion on a case-by-case basis.

<https://crc.losrios.edu/admissions/enroll-in-classes/grading-policies-and-academic-regulations>

Written Assignments: All written assignments, including but not limited to the homework, tests, labs, and the final, should be done in **dark pencil or pen**; black, dark gray, **dark blue**, and **deep purple** are preferred. Fancy colors such as **green**, **red**, or **pink** can only be used to augment graphs and illustrations.

Once assignments are graded, the instructor will bring them to class and distribute them back to students. If you are not present on that day, then you can pick up your graded assignments during the office hours. All written assignments except for the final exam will be securely destroyed after your class grades are submitted to the district.

Homework: Homework serves as practice and will prepare you to do your best on labs and tests. Homework is crucial for learning the material as well as for succeeding in this class. Doing all homework is probably the most effective way to raise your test grades. You are welcome to work in groups while solving the homework, but you must submit your own work.

Homework in this class is not intended as the primary means of feedback. Students are expected to check and judge their own work by using the answer key (whenever available), verifying answers with technology, and/or discussing the homework with the instructor during office hours. At most, the instructor will only check a very small portion of the homework for accuracy.

Late homework will be accepted with a fixed 5% penalty per day past due. **If submitted in-person, late homework** must be clearly marked as late, and show at the top the date it was originally due, as well as the date it was actually submitted. Without that information, late homework will not be processed.

Labs/Worksheets: In-class assignments will be given out during some class sessions, typically without any advance warning. **There will be no make-ups for labs/worksheets**, but up to 20% of these assignments can be missed for any reason without an adverse impact on the grade (average score will be used in place of zero).

Tests: There will be several tests. **No make-up tests will be given for any reason.** If you are not present for the test, zero will be entered as your grade for that test. If you miss a single test due to a documented case of grave illness and/or family emergency, you will have an option to use your average (non-zero) midterm test grade to replace that zero, but only **at the instructor's discretion**, and only once.

Final: The 2 hour final exam will be given on the date determined by the official final exam schedule:

<https://crc.losrios.edu/admissions/academic-calendar-and-deadlines/final-exam-schedule>

The final exam will not be comprehensive, and may take a form of a writing assignment with in-class presentation.

The final date and time are determined by the College District before the semester starts. You must plan to be present at the final. If your schedule precludes you from being present at the final, you must inform the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of instruction. If you are not present at the final, "F" will be entered as your grade for the class.

Grading:

Grades versus %		Grade Breakdown	
A	90 – 100%	Homework	10%
B	80 – 89%	Labs/Quizzes	10%
C	70 – 79%	Tests	60%
D	60 – 69%	Final	20%
F	0 – 59%		

Extra Credit: One way to get extra credit in this class is to be first to point out a typo or an error in any of the printed materials created by your instructor. The other one is in-class participation.

Getting more than 1% of the total class grade from extra credit is extremely rare. The instructor reserves the right to set or change the maximum allowed amount of extra credit per student, and can do so at any time during the semester.

Getting Help: If you have a question or a concern not addressed in this syllabus, please contact your instructor via email (allow 2 business days for reply). Moreover, the campus provides some resources to help you study:

<https://crc.losrios.edu/student-resources>

Tutoring: The CRC Tutoring Center provides academic support services to CRC students. The Center facilitates drop-in tutoring, study skills coaching, study groups, and more.

<https://crc.losrios.edu/student-resources/tutoring>

Additional tutors are available at the Math Center, which helps students to develop confidence and proficiency in their math skills.

<https://crc.losrios.edu/student-resources/tutoring/math-center-at-crc>

Even more support is available at MESA, a program designed to aid underrepresented students in obtaining a calculus-based four-year degree in a STEM field.

<https://crc.losrios.edu/student-resources/mesa>

Computers: The use of computers and tablets during regular class meetings is OK as long as they are used for class work and are completely silent. While taking tests and the final, only the approved non-networked calculators and/or computers running approved software will be allowed. If in doubt, you should consult with the instructor and get your devices pre-approved prior to the test date. **Using tablets or computers for anything but the current assignment in this class may result in you being removed from the classroom until the end of the session, which will count as an unexcused absence.**

Forbidden Tech: Spyphone/smartphone use is prohibited while the class is in session. In particular, they can never be used as calculators. Computerized watches can be used for showing current time only, and may have to be stowed away during tests. **Using the tech listed above in violation of this syllabus may result in you being removed from the classroom until the end of the session, which will count as an unexcused absence.**

Accommodations: Disability Support Programs & Services (DSP&S) provides equal educational opportunity for students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities. Counseling, support services, and academic accommodations are provided to students who are eligible for the program.

The Cosumnes River College Learning Disabilities Program can provide support services and academic accommodations to students who have documentation of a specific learning disability from another school or professional. In addition, Diagnostic Assessment may be available for appropriately referred students who come to the DSP&S program for an orientation appointment.

If you have a learning disability, a physical disability, or other special needs, please let the instructor know as soon as possible if you need special accommodations.

Students have the right to request reasonable modifications to college requirements, services, facilities or programs if their documented disability imposes a functional educational limitation or impedes access to such requirements, services, facilities, or programs. A student with a disability who will be requesting modification, accommodation, or access to an auxiliary aid is required and responsible for identifying himself/herself to the instructor and, if desired, to the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S office). In either event, **the student is responsible for providing appropriate documentation of his/her disability before we can accommodate.** Students who consult or request assistance from the DSP&S office regarding specific modifications, accommodations or use of auxiliary aid will be required to meet timelines and procedural requirements established by the DSP&S office.

<https://crc.losrios.edu/student-resources/support-services/disability-support-programs-and-services>

Academic Honesty: Any instance of plagiarism and/or cheating will result in the score of zero for that homework, quiz, or test, and will be reported to the Vice President's office.

<https://crc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values/student-rights-and-responsibilities/plagiarism-and-cheating>

Meta: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester. All relevant changes will be announced in class, and an updated version of the syllabus will be published online. Students are responsible for keeping up with these changes.

Student Learning Outcomes: This section is here for reference only. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to

- Categorize and analyze mathematical objects and apply them to real life problems
 - define and setup tables, diagrams, graphs, and matrices
- Solve mathematical problems from different branches of mathematics
 - manipulate and solve problems relating to algebra
 - apply basic geometric axioms, definitions, and theorems to solve geometric problems
 - recognize principles of counting techniques to determine number of ways to select members from a group for a specific task
 - compute mean, median, mode, range, standard deviation, and variance of a set of data
- Interpretations of mathematical objects in a variety of analytical settings and performing different operations to combine these objects
 - recognize different representations of sets and performing different set operations to combine sets
 - apply the logic properties to assess the validity of an argument
- Apply the mathematical concepts or objects to assess a situation, make decisions, and solve the real life problems
 - assess the risks and rewards of credit cards and investments, and select the optimal path for a delivery route
 - create an efficient schedule, select a fair method for dividing valuable assets, and evaluate the efficiency of an algorithm
- Defend some aspects of the mathematics used in real life applications
 - investigate and solve real life problems such as home mortgage loans and student loans
 - pursue the meaning of mathematics through the history of different numeration system and the progression of mathematics