

Mathematics 210 - Communicating in Mathematics

Expectations for the Course

This is a Supplemental Writing Skills course. You will be expected to spend a great deal of time writing and rewriting your assignments, and you will be responsible for the mathematical content in this course. The most important rule for this course is that **you cannot get behind in your work!!** Always stay up to date with the material in this course.

Make succeeding in this course a priority.

Attendance

Attendance in class is critical to your success in this course. I expect you to be present and on-time each day we meet. You are responsible for announcements made in class concerning material covered, assignments, changes in the syllabus or due dates, or anything else pertinent to the course.

Due Dates

All due dates for the course will be strictly enforced. It is expected that all assignments will be turned in by the due date. No late work will be accepted without prior approval from the instructor.

Academic Honesty

Some of the work done in this course will be done collaboratively. Collaboration requires you to contribute to the solutions, think when you write, work through the details on your own, and write your own solutions. Copying an answer or a solution that is not your own, no matter how small, is plagiarism. Evidence of plagiarism in an assignment will result in a grade of zero. (Grand Valley's policy on academic honesty is stated on page 72 of the current catalog.)

Preparation

It is imperative that you work on a consistent basis. This applies to both the day-to-day work to prepare for class as well as the more long term projects such as the Portfolio Project and the Library Assignment. This class meets three hours per week. You should plan to spend at least six hours per week outside of class studying for this course. You should keep a well-organized record of your study notes, completed problems, and problems in progress for future reference. You must understand that a great deal of your learning in this course must occur on your own. It is your responsibility to read the text, do the problems, be prepared for class, and to seek help as needed.

Participation

In every class meeting, there will be ample opportunity for you to actively participate. Through questions asked in lecture, brief exercises for small teams of students, and discussion of homework problems, you will be able to check and demonstrate your understanding of the material. You must be prepared and up to date to participate effectively. In addition, you will have the opportunity to ask questions in class. This is an important part of the learning process as I cannot respond to concepts that are causing you difficulty if you do not ask me about them. I expect that everyone will share in this important part of the learning process for this course.

Graded Work and Use of a Word Processor

I expect your very best on all graded assignments. All solutions for the problems on the Portfolio Project must be written on a word processor capable of producing the appropriate mathematical symbols and equations. Use 12 point font and standard margins. All such papers must be spell-checked and proofread for grammatical correctness.

Mathematical Writing

One of the primary objectives of this course is to learn to write mathematics well and in particular, learn to write mathematical proofs. Writing is an important part of communicating mathematical results. You will be required to write mathematical proofs and solutions to mathematical problems on the tests and assignments for this course. Writing proofs and solutions means more than writing formulas and circling an answer. It requires explanations of all significant steps taken in the solution of a problem. These explanations must be written in complete sentences and paragraphs with appropriate formulas and graphs included. The grading of the writing assignments will be based on the quality of the writing, the quality of the mathematical content, and the logical organization of the writing.

e-mail

You are expected to check their e-mail regularly. Announcements about the class may be sent via e-mail. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will use the usual GVSU river accounts for e-mail messages.

Internet Access and the Course Home Page

Most of the materials and information for this course will be posted to the course homepage, which is part of Grand Valley's Blackboard System. One way to access the course home page is to go to the instructor's home page (<http://faculty.gvsu.edu/sundstr/>) and click on the link for "GVSU Blackboard." You are expected to access this homepage regularly since many announcements will be posted. In addition, the course schedule and assignments will be posted on this homepage.