

# Math 1120 Syllabus Supplement

Fall 2018

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**Lecturer:** Matt Hin

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**Office:** Rhodes 657 (The building is on Hoy Road across from the baseball field.)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 3:00-5:00pm @ Malott 218

**Section Info:** MWF 8:00-8:50am in Rockefeller 104.

*General Course Information, Semester Schedule, Support Resources, and Homework assignments can be found on the Course Blackboard Page: [www.blackboard.cornell.edu](http://www.blackboard.cornell.edu).*

*Worksheets can be found on the instructor's webpage:*

<https://people.cam.cornell.edu/mfh72/courses/math1120fa18.html>.

## **Section Format:**

Before each session, you are expected to have read the relevant sections in the course textbook and completed any pre-class activity requested by the instructor. In class, you will be working through worksheets that provide opportunities for students to collaborate with their peers, build proficiency with topics, and develop connections. As the instructor, I will be leading classroom discussions and boardwork activities. Homework is due at the start of class every Wednesday. You should expect graded assignments to be returned in a week and contain consistent feedback from this section's grader. Office hours are available to you throughout the week and are open to students of any section of 1120.

## **Section Expectations:**

During every session, I expect that you...

- have consistent attendance,
- have read the material in the textbook prior to the session,
- have completed the pre-class activity prior to the session,
- behave in a responsible and respectful fashion to me and your peers,
- are willing to contribute in group and class activities, and
- ask questions about the material, no matter how silly or intensive.

During every session, you can expect that I...

- have prepared material,
- behave in a responsible and respectful fashion to students,
- answer student questions to the best of the my abilities,
- grade and return assignments in a timely fashion, and
- provide good feedback on graded assignments.

**On Mathematical Communication:**

The ability to communicate ideas and procedures to others is important for mathematicians and this class will provide ample opportunities to develop this skill. Beyond discussions with me and your peers, you will also be expected to write solutions to mathematical problems. These solutions should be seen as practice to elucidate clearly and effectively communicate how an answer is obtained.

Written solutions are argumentative essays that present a solution to a problem using mathematical notation, important statements, and clear logical progression. Good mathematical communication should demonstrate an understanding of the material beyond the notation and intuition. Furthermore, good mathematical communication should be approachable beyond its immediate audience.

I have found that students unaccustomed to good mathematical writing often submit scratch work as solutions to problems. Unfortunately, the sprawl of notation is neither enlightening nor useful for readers who are not already familiar with the problem to be solved. Instead, you should be leveraging sentences to explain the mathematical operations, mathematical notation, and logical progressions. In this class, you can use the following heuristic of a good solution: students who are one week behind in the course should be able to understand your solutions.

**Accommodations:**

The mathematics department at Cornell University is committed to providing accommodations for students in need. If you feel like there is something I can do to help you engage with the course more easily, please approach me! I am always open to suggestions. There are also more institutionalized ways to better your engagement with the course which are handled by Student Disability Services (SDS). You should contact them (<https://sds.cornell.edu/>) if you believe you require accommodations due to medical concerns (extended time, distraction-free setting).

**Course Triage:**

While you as a student are responsible for your studies, it is important to recognize that there are situations that can distract you from these responsibilities. If you feel like these distractions have left you prioritizing your studies lower than you would like, it is important to bring it to my attention so that we may help you triage the situation as it intersects with this course. While I cannot waive assignments and examinations, we can agree upon an alternative or additional assignments to assess your performance. For example students with extended absences may ask for a project to act as an alternative option to demonstrate their proficiency of materials covered during the absence. The specific details for each alternative assignment are arranged on a case-by-case basis.

**Tips for Success:**

- It is highly encouraged (short of being required) for students to attend (any) office hours!
- Come to discussion with questions!
- Find a good group to work with; study groups are super-effective!
- Approach the instructor if you have any concerns!
- Be honest. Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.