

Math 213 X1 MWF 12 145 Altgeld Class Organization Spring 2002

Instructor: Prof. Bruce Reznick, 243 Illini Hall, 333-4284, reznick@math.uiuc.edu. My phone has voice mail and I frequently check and reply to my email, including weekends. Office hours are by appointment. I take them seriously, and they can usually be arranged within 24 hours. You are also encouraged to ask me questions immediately before, during and after class. I'm terrible with names; don't take it personally.

There is an unmoderated newsgroup for this course, called `uiuc.class.math213`. If I can remember, I will post all announcements made in class to the newsgroup, as well as the assignments. You are encouraged to use this newsgroup to ask (and answer) course-related questions. I will also monitor the newsgroup, and will also post answers to your e-mail questions, after anonymizing the source.

This course will have a webpage – <http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~reznick/classes/math213.html>. I'm older than the average HTML coder; your tolerance is appreciated. I plan to make all non-handwritten class handouts also available from the webpage. There will be a “class diary”, which will summarize what happens in each class period. Experience shows that this becomes less regular as the semester progresses. It will be impossible for me to post exam solutions in advance.

Text and Syllabus: The text is *Discrete mathematics and its applications* by Rosen. The syllabus will be separately distributed. The text has a webpage too (see page xix).

Homework Policy: Written homework will be assigned to be due most class periods. Please staple or paper-clip your homework sheets (no folding over corners), and consider writing more than one draft. You are expected to spell correctly and write complete, grammatical sentences when possible in this and all your university assignments. Homework solutions will be distributed when the assignment is due. I will work with the grader to return your work as quickly as possible. No late homework is accepted, but the lowest three homework scores (possibly zero) will be omitted in computing your homework average. In rare instances, you may be excused from an assignment, but the dropped scores are intended to cover ordinary illnesses, weddings, etc. **Collaboration in studying and working the homework is strongly encouraged! Collaboration without comprehension is a waste of time.** A phone and e-mail list will be distributed once the class stabilizes. It is my policy not to give individual homework help before an assignment is due. But if you ask a question in class, in email, or on the newsgroup, I can further explain to *everybody* the mathematics which underlies your question.

Exam Policy: There will be three Hour Exams, at the usual intervals. We will decide in class whether the exams will be in class or in the evening. All exams will be closed-book and closed-note, and will resemble the homeworks. The Final Exam is comprehensive, and somewhat harder than the Hour Exams. The Final must be held at the scheduled time, which is Tuesday, May 7 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm.

Grading Policy: Keep in mind that I am grading your work, not you as a person. Each Hour Exam counts 20%, the Final Exam counts 40% and the Homework counts 10%. The lowest 10% is dropped. All grades are numerical. The highest possible grade cutoffs are: A/B – 90%, B/C – 80%, C/D – 70%, D/E – 60%, by which I mean “A-/B+”, etc. I will try to keep you posted on any curving as the semester progresses. There are two exceptions to the numerical grading: anyone who gets 96% on the Final gets an A and anyone who gets 75% on the Final will pass.

Philosophy: This course is primarily designed to introduce you to mathematical topics that are useful in applied subjects. Although this is not intended to be a “proofs” course, neither is it an engineering course.