

## Math 348 E1 MWF 1 148 Henry Class Organization Spring 2001

**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. This course has a TA, Mr. Ming Kou, who will be offering regular “walk-up” office 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.math348`. If I can remember, I will post all announcements made in class to the newsgroup, as well as `.tex` files for the homeworks. You are encouraged to use this newsgroup to ask (and answer) course-related questions. Mr. Kou and I will also monitor the newsgroup, and I will post answers to your e-mail questions, after anonymizing the source.

This course will have a webpage – <http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~reznick/classes/math348.html>. I’m older than the average HTML coder; your patience is appreciated. I plan to make all class handouts also available from the webpage. There will be a “class diary”, which will summarize what happens in each class period. It will be impossible for me to post exam solutions in advance.

**Text and Syllabus:** The text is *Complex Variables* by Fisher. This is the first time this particular textbook will be used here, and the syllabus, which is separately distributed, is somewhat tentative.

**Homework Policy:** Written homework will be assigned to be due weekly. 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. No late homework is accepted, but the lowest two 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 specific homework help to individuals 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.

Although Math 348 is an undergraduate course, it typically attracts many graduate students, and this can cause some stress on both sides. (If forced to make a choice, I would rather bore the grad students than baffle the undergrads.) A typical homework assignment will contain 8 regular problems, arranged in roughly increasing order of difficulty, and 2 harder problems, which are intended for those grad students taking the course for 1.00U, rather than .75U. The denominator for the homework grade will be “8”, unless you are taking 1.00U, in which case it will be “10”. Although the maximum score on an assignment is 100%, you should try to work as many problems as you can, partial credit is given when earned.

**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 Saturday, May 5, from 1:30 – 4:30 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 20%. The lowest 20% 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. (I reserve the right to curve differently for undergrads and grads.) 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:** The study of functions of a complex variable is one of the most beautiful in mathematics, and has applications to nearly every other area in the subject. Education is not a zero-sum game when done correctly. I do not consider you my adversaries, and hope the feeling is mutual. Become an active participant in this course. Let it get under your skin and visit your dreams. These are serious steps towards becoming a mathematician.