Math 348 C1 MWF 10 445 Altgeld Hall Class Organization (revised) Spring 2000

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 will be an unmoderated newsgroup for this course, called uiuc.class.math348. 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. In addition, I will post my answers to your e-mail questions, after anonymizing the source.

This course has a webpage – http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~reznick/math348.html. I'm still pretty new in using HTML, so please be patient. I plan to make all handouts available as .pdf files from the webpage. I will also keep a "class diary", which will summarize what we've done 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 Levinson and Redheffer. The book is out of print, but xeroxed copies are available at UpClose Printing, at 714 S. Sixth. St. (You'll approve of the price!) We are supposed to cover Ch.1 – §1–6; Ch.2 – §1–5; Ch.3 – §1–10; Ch.4 – §1–6,9; Ch.5 – §1,2,6–8; Ch.6 – §1–3.

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.

I think there will be 12 homework problems per week, of which 4 will be "graduate" problems. Everyone can try every problem, but the denominator for undergrads will be "8", for grad students taking the class at .75 units, it will be "10" and for grad students taking the class at 1 unit, it will be "12". Scores above 100% are not possible on an assignment.

The grad assistant for this course is Mr. Manjula Samarasinghe (e-mail samarsi@math.uiuc.edu). He will run a problem session on Mondays at 5 in 145 Altgeld. The first purpose of this will be to review homework solutions, but of course, any relevant questions may be considered.

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 Monday, May 8, from 8:00 – 11:00 am.

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. 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. Experience has shown me that these exceptions are rarely relevant.

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. Also, this is an undergraduate class, and I would rather bore the grad students than baffle the undergrads. In any event, be an active participant in this course. Let it get under your skin and visit your dreams. These will be serious steps towards becoming a mathematician.