MATH 1001E Spring 2016 Quantitative Reasoning

Instructor: Dr. Cornelius Stallmann (AH N325, 667-4482, cstallma@gru.edu)
Class meeting times and location TR 2:30-3:45 pm AH E362
Office Hours: W 3:00 - 5:00 pm, TR 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm, or by appointment

This course is designed to give you an appreciation for, understanding of, and some direct experience of the profound beauty and the widespread utility of mathematics.

The way this will be accomplished will not be by me telling you about the mathematics that I know. Nor will it be accomplish by giving you detailed instructions on how to carry out certain mathematical procedures that you may or may not ever use again.

Instead you will explore mathematical ideas, see patterns, discover mathematical truths, demonstrate to your peers that certain mathematical statements are correct, and solve problems of many different types.

The course is not a “mathematics appreciation” course although my hope is that you will come to appreciate mathematics more than you have before. Neither is it a “basic skills” course although I hope that you will develop some skills that will serve you well in your future life.

Instead it a course in which you will be allowed to develop habits of mind that will help you navigate smoothly in a world where mathematical ideas and methods are playing a larger and larger role.

Homework Assignments, group work, essays, presentations, and class participation (30%)

The majority of class time will be spend doing explorations of mathematical topics, mostly in groups. These explorations will lead to discussions and give individual students the opportunity to contribute by presenting material to the rest of the class. In addition I will often give assignments for you to do at home to explore on your own some of the ideas that we will we working with. These need to be turned in on the day that they are due if you are to receive any credit for them. No exceptions.

Journal (20%)

Your journal entries will consist primarily of written reflections on the classroom activities. You will have one entry for every day that we meet on which there is no test.

Tests (20% midterm, 30% final)

I will give two tests, one before the midterm drop deadline of March 7 and a final exam at the end of the semester (Monday, May 9, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm). The first test will cover what we did before the test and the final will cover what we did the entire semester. On these tests you will be ask to solve problems, proof mathematical statements, and work through mathematical exercises similar to the ones we did in class. The journal that you keep will be the perfect study guide for these tests and you will be permitted to use it during the test.
Attendance

I expect you to be in class every time that we meet. Because of the nature of the class you cannot easily make up the experiences that you missed. I understand that sometimes an unavoidable emergency can make it impossible to make it to class. In such a case you should:

1) Contact me by email or phone before the class if possible.
2) Contact someone else in the class so that you can get an idea of what you missed.
3) Schedule an office visit with me after the absence so that I can help get you back up to speed.

If you miss more than 3 class periods I have the option to withdraw you from the class. If you are close to that number please come see me. If I have to drop you because of poor attendance after midterm (Monday, March 7, 2016) you will get a WF which counts the same as an F. Three late arrivals or early departures will count for one absence.

Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices

The use of cell phones and other mobile electronic devices during class is not permitted. You will be expected to put your cell-phones, tablets, laptops, game consoles, and other electronic devices in silent mode when you come to class and put them out of sight during class. This means that you will put them in your purse, your backpack, or some other bag or container that will keep them from being seen during the class. Any violation of this policy will result in a 2 point deduction from your final semester average.

Centering at the beginning of class

The first five minutes of every class period will be devoted to quiet reflection/meditation. During this time you will be expected to be completely quiet so as not to disturb other students or your instructor. This means you will not be engaged in other activities such as checking your cell phone, writing in your journal, completing assignments from another class, eating, drinking, or any other activity that might create any distraction. If you have a particular meditation practice that you follow you are encouraged to engage in it during this time. If you don’t and you are interested in learning about meditation there are many good sources of information on this topic available on the web or in print. I will be also be happy to share what I know. Don’t hesitate to ask.