

MATH 101

Mathematics in the Modern World

Spring 2008, M-F

9-9:50am, Hertz 122

10-10:50am, Black 150

1-1:50pm, Bouillon 102

Instructor: Jessica Giglio

Office: Hertz 222

Office Hours: 2-2:50pm M-F, and by appointment

Phone: 963-2330 **E-mail:** giglij@cwu.edu (write MATH 101 **and** your class hour in the subject line)

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook: *Using and Understanding Mathematics: A Quantitative Reasoning Approach*, by Jeffrey Bennett and William Briggs

Calculator: You are required to have a calculator with memory and exponential functions. The TI-83 graphing calculator is strongly recommended.

Course Description: This course satisfies your General Education “Basic Skills (c)” requirement. We will be looking at material that has applications to everyday life. We will discuss how to use math to analyze problems and make decisions.

Units:

- **1. Finances:** How do you decide which credit card is the best deal? How much money would you have to start investing now to retire comfortably?
- **2. Modeling Growth:** How long will it take the Earth's population to double? What is a half-life?
- **3. Voting:** Does the majority always rule? How do politicians bend the rules to influence voting outcomes?
- **4. Problem-solving:** What are some plans of attack for real-world mathematical and logical problems?

COURSE POLICIES

Homework and Quizzes: I will assign homework from each section of the textbook that we cover, but these assignments will not be collected. However, many quiz and test questions will be very similar to homework problems and/or examples given in class. I will take some time at the beginning of each class to answer questions on the homework. **Five quizzes will be given throughout the quarter, and your lowest score will be dropped. Quizzes are worth 25 points each, for a total of 100 points.**

Exams: There will be **3** exams, one after each of Units 1, 2, and 3. Your **lowest score** will be dropped. The tentative dates for the exams are **April 15, May 2, and May 19.** **Exams are worth 100 points each, for a total of 200 points.**

Projects: You will do one project for each unit. For each project, you will spend one full class day working on each project in groups, and then finish and write it up on your own later. The Unit 4 project will be more substantial and worth more, since there is no exam for that unit. The projects will involve some critical thinking and writing in addition to using mathematical concepts. You will be graded on in-class participation, completeness, mathematical accuracy, clarity, and readability. The tentative dates for the projects are **April 8, April 28, May 14, and May 28.**

The projects for Units 1, 2, and 3 are worth 50 points each, and the project for Unit 4 is worth 100 points, for a total of 250 points.

Grading: Your final percentage grade will be determined by dividing your point total by the **550 points** available.

93+, A	90-92, A-	87-89, B+	83-86, B	80-82, B-	77-79, C+
73-76, C	70-72, C-	67-69, D+	60-66, D	below 60, F	

Since incompletes will not be given except in the most extreme circumstances, make sure you are aware that the last date for uncontested withdrawal is **Fri. May 9.**

Late Work and Make-ups: You can **only** make up quizzes if you either let me know ahead of time that you will be missing class, or you contact me the same day you missed class (if it was for an unexpected reason). You can **only** make up tests under *serious* circumstances and at my discretion, in which case you may be given a different version than the rest of the class. Projects are considered late **after 5pm** on the day that they are due, and late projects will be accepted for a **50% reduction in points** until the last day of class.

Blackboard: I will record all grades in Blackboard, but please note that your actual grade may be different than the one that appears in Blackboard. This syllabus and the homework list can be found in the **Course Information** section of Blackboard. Other handouts will be posted in the **Course Documents** section.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS

We cover a lot of material in this class, so it is important to attend every day and keep up with the homework. Also read through the textbook sections—they are full of excellent examples and thorough explanations. If you are having trouble, seek help before you fall too far behind. You can come to my office hours, set up alternate times to meet with me, send me an email, stop by the University Math Center, or hire a private tutor. You are also *strongly encouraged* to work together on homework and when studying for tests. If requested, I may be able to arrange a room where your group can meet in the evening.

If you have any requests to allow for special needs, let me know within the first 3 days of class. Additional support may be available at Disability Support Services (963-2171).