

MATH 101-H Math in the Modern World
Dr. Boersma
Fall 2011

Goal: The major goal of this course is *to develop the power and habit of mind to search out quantitative information, critique it, reflect upon it, and apply it to one's public, personal, and professional life*. The major source materials for this course will be newspaper and other media articles, some of which are collected in a book of case studies and others of which will be taken from current sources. We will read, analyze, interpret, and critique the mathematics, statistics, and other quantitative information in the articles.

Office: Bouillon 1078E, phone: 963-1395, email boersmas@cwu.edu. Office hours will be announced in class shortly. You may of course drop by anytime. If I'm not busy I'll be glad to talk with you.

**Required
Materials**

1. **Text:** *Case Studies for Quantitative Reasoning – A Casebook of Media Articles* (second edition) by Bernard L. Madison, Stuart Boersma, Caren L. Diefenderfer, and Shannon Dingman.
2. Calculator

Your Grade: Your final grade in this course will depend on quizzes, group work, individual homework, news of the day, attendance, and class participation.

Quizzes Approximately every two weeks there will be an in-class quiz. These quizzes are intended to allow you to demonstrate your proficiency at some basic quantitative reasoning skills. Calculators are allowed. Attendance is mandatory on these dates. Make-up quizzes will only be given in extreme cases. If you anticipate a conflict, please see me **before** the date of the quiz. Several days notice will be given for each quiz.

**Individual
Homework**

I will periodically assign problems/discussion-items to be handed in and graded. Many times these assignments will be based on work begun in class. All such assignments should be typed/printed with special care given to spelling, grammar, and sentence construction. As with most any college-level class, expect to do a lot of reading and writing! If you are having difficulties with the writing portion, let me know and I can help direct you to individuals on campus who can help. Late homework may not be accepted!

**Group
Work**

We will frequently use small groups to initiate discussion on media articles. Please come to class prepared to participate in such discussions.

**News of
the Day**

In addition to studying media articles that have been collected over the last several years, we will also have discussions on current news articles that you are responsible for bringing to class. You are required to bring in and summarize at least one such news article. More detail on these assignments are on a separate handout.

**Culminating
Assignment**

There will be a final quantitative reasoning assignment. Details on this final project will be given later in the class.

Technology:

There will be many times when we will need to do some short arithmetic calculations. Thus, bringing a calculator to class every day is important. At times, familiarity with a spreadsheet may be helpful

Attendance

A majority of the “content” and “instruction” for this course will take place daily in class. In many cases there will be no easy way to make up missed instruction. Furthermore, it is important to participate in the classroom discussions and the News of the Day activities. Thus, this class will have a strict attendance policy. You should plan on attending every day. Frequent attendance checks will take place. If you are not present during such a check, you will be considered absent. If you happen to miss a day, be advised that you are still responsible for any assignments that were given or turned in. Although no deductions will be taken for the first two absences, any subsequent absence will result in a 5-point deduction to your attendance/participation grade.

Newspapers

Several free copies of the *Seattle Times* and the *Daily Record* are typically made available in the SURC. Daily subscriptions to the *New York Times* are available online and individual papers can be picked up at Starbucks.

Final Grades: As mentioned in part above, your final grade will depend on

Quizzes	200 pts.
Individual Homework	250 pts.
News of the Day	50 pts.
Attendance/Participation	50 pts.
Culminating Assignment	50 pts.
TOTAL	600 pts.

While I reserve the right to “curve” final grades as I deem appropriate, your grade will be no lower than:

A :600– 555	C+: 476– 459
A–: 554– 537	C: 458– 435
B+:536– 519	C–: 434– 417
B :518– 495	D+: 416– 399
B–: 494– 477	D : 398– 375
	D– : 374– 357

Students who have special needs or disabilities that may affect their ability to access information or material presented in this course are encouraged to contact me or the Center for Disability Services.