

Math 102.001: Mathematical Decision Making

Meeting Daily 9:00 – 9:50 in Bouillon 102

Instructor: Tim Brown

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Office: Bouillon 117

Office Hours: 2-3 PM Daily (*and by arrangement.*)

Course info on Canvas website

Description: Mathematical decision making is a course designed to teach the important concepts in probability and statistics from a consumer perspective. This means there will be a significant focus on how to interpret, analyze, and validate (or invalidate) quantitative information you will be getting for the rest of your life. You will be expected to learn and demonstrate some procedures and calculations, primarily as tools for “getting at” the bigger-picture ideas and principles. You will also be expected to communicate the meaning and significance of your answers, and analyze the validity of other quantitative statements.

Time: The general rule of thumb for college is 2 hours outside of class for each hour in class. For this class, you should expect to spend 5 - 10 hours per week besides class time to be successful (some may need more, some less....) You choose to succeed or not largely by how you choose to spend time and energy. Plan ahead and make sure you have time available.

Expectations:

Uni-tasking! The (lost) art of doing one thing at a time, focusing, and doing it well. Turn off your phones, ipods, ipads, cortical implants, etc. during class... She will still love you in 50 minutes. The candy will still need to be crushed. Some people will still call him Maurice. Your friends will still have “words” with you ☺. If you are here, be truly here.

Attendance, participation, homework. People who consistently show up, do their work, and get help as needed generally pass my classes. This isn’t a separate policy, it just works out that way. Be here, pay attention, ask questions, do your work, and you will succeed. If you must be gone, you are responsible to access my canvas website for information, and keep up with the work. Absences hurt your grade in several ways:

- You miss your best opportunity to learn the material and/or ask questions
- You will miss in-class activities, which you may not be able to make up
- You may waste a quiz retake opportunity
- You will miss getting your perfect practices checked in a timely manner – and be unsure what the expectations are in terms of showing work, labelling, etc.
- You may be removed from your group during group-work activities and projects.

Respect yourself: Believe your education is important enough to put forth the effort. Your future is worth investing in.

Respect others (real or simulated respect) – me, classmates, the school, etc. In order to create and sustain a safe and inclusive environment for learning, we have a shared responsibility to treat each other with dignity and respect. Mutual respect and nondiscrimination includes freedom from sexual harassment. Honesty is also absolutely essential.

Materials:

- A scientific calculator is required. Smart phone apps will not do, as you can’t use a phone during quizzes and tests (hopefully for obvious reasons). If this is a problem, come see me.
- Text: Using and Understanding Mathematics: A quantitative reasoning approach 6th edition by Bennett and Briggs.

Grading:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|----------------|
| ○ 20% | Final Exam | 90% - 100% = A |
| ○ 20% | Chapter Tests | 80% - 90% = B |
| ○ 30% | Quizzes/ Major projects | 70% - 80% = C |
| ○ 30% | Homework/ Minor projects | 60% - 70% = D |

+ and – grades apply if your score is within 2%.

(for example, 72.1% is a C, 71% is a C-, 78.2 is a C+)

Homework

- Homework is assigned almost every day, and needs to be done that day. A typical assignment will include in-class notes/activities, a “perfect practice,” and practice problems from the book or handout.
 - In-class notes or activities may require attendance/not be “make-up-able”.
 - Perfect Practices are short exercises you do in class, and keep correcting until they are perfect, at which point I stamp them. They must be stamped prior to turning in the homework packet.
 - For practice problems, answers without supporting work are generally worthless. I typically select sample problems to score for accuracy, and give completion points for the rest of the assignment.
- Minor Projects: Scoring criteria will vary for these 1 – 2 day activities. They count as a homework grade.

Quizzes

- Quizzes may or may not be announced – keep current on the work and ask questions as we go.
- You may make up or retake up to **3 quizzes** this quarter for full credit. You must have the “I don’t get it” activity and schedule completed and with you, as well as the relevant perfect practices stamped to be eligible for a retake/make up. and you must come see me outside of class – during office hours or by appointment. Deadline for retakes is the day before the next chapter test. If you are absent the day a quiz is given, the retake is your only chance at the quiz.
- Larger project(s) will count as a quiz grade

Late work: No such thing. I give extra opportunities on some tasks, but when they are due, they are due.

Cheating = Failure. You are always allowed help on homework (“help” is different from “copying”). Projects are usually collaborative efforts. However, quizzes and the final exam are individual efforts unless otherwise specified. You will receive a zero with no chance for make up if you copy, help, hint, check, etc. with a classmate. You will also lose any future make-up or retake opportunities.

Extra Help: Do not hesitate to come see me at my office. My office hours are listed on the front of this page, and I’m available other times by arrangement. We may have math education students who are available for individual or small group tutoring – see me. Also, the University Math Center, located in ARC on the first floor of Brooks library has very generous drop in tutoring hours. Kahn academy (www.khanacademy.org) has an organized collection of over 2,400 tutorial videos, with special emphasis on math.

Accommodations: If you have a disability and require accommodations for this course please speak with me privately as soon as possible so that your needs may be appropriately met. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with Disability Services (DS). DS is located in Bouillon 140. Call (509) 963-2149 or email [cgs@cwu.edu](mailto:cds@cwu.edu) for more information.

THE END: There will be regular homework and review assignments and a final project due during the last week of class.

Final Exam: Tuesday, March 14 from 8:00 – 9:50 AM. Exam is cumulative (i.e. covers the whole course).