

Instructor : Aaron Montgomery

Class : T–F @ 1:00–1:50 in Samuelson 209

Office Hours : T @ 10, W @ 3, F @ 10, and by appt.

Email : montgoaa@cwu.edu **Phone** : 963-1906

Optional Text : Velleman’s **How to Prove It**

Textbooks: In addition to the optional text, there is a MATH 351 packet available on Canvas. I will make hardcopies of this and distribute them during the quarter.

Course Outcomes: This course (and MATH 335) are designed to develop your proof writing skills so that you will be prepared for later courses (the Abstract Algebra and the Analysis sequences in particular). In order to pass this course, you will need to be able to independently set up proofs and to be able to fully develop proofs that fit into the “follow your nose” pattern.

This course will introduce the basic concepts of point set topology. In particular, we will study topologies, continuous maps, the separation axioms, connectedness, and compactness.

Office Hours: I have three hours set aside for office hours each week. During those times, I will be in my office and you can drop in to ask questions. You can also send me an email and we can set up an appointment to meet at other times. Typically, when you request an appointment, I will put together a list of times I am available for the remainder of the week, you get to pick one and (if it is still free), I’ll put you in my calendar. When you come to office hours, be prepared.

If you are asking questions about a proof, I will expect you to be able to tell me the definitions of all the terms in the theorem and to construct some examples that may or may not satisfy the conditions of the theorem. If you cannot do these things, I will send you off to do them before I will help you. Unlike using mathematics, doing mathematics (also known as proof writing) is not an activity that can be effectively mimicked. Do not expect to come to my office and watch me do a proof that is almost identical to the proof you are supposed to write. I will try to provide you with hints and examples that will help you understand the concepts involved and you will be expected to use this understanding to synthesize the proof. This means that asking lots of questions on Thursday is not a good way to have the homework done by Friday. Ask questions on Tuesday and Wednesday so that you have time to

build an understanding by Thursday.

Graded Coursework

Homework: 140 Points — There will be 8 homework assignments (all assignments are posted on the website), each worth 20 points with the lowest score dropped for a total of 140 points. After getting your homework returned, you will have one week during which you can attempt to rework problems you missed for reduced credit. Late homework is not accepted. Homework turned in one week after the due date will be graded with the reworked problems and will be assigned reduced credit.

You may turn in up to two (2) homework electronically (to allow for the possibility that you cannot make it on to campus that week). All other homework must be turned in to me (either by handing it to me or by sliding it under my door by 3 pm on Friday).

Much of your homework involves writing proofs. I expect proofs to be complete and follow the guidelines in the MATH 351 packet. Minimal points will be given for homework that requires me to rotate the page, squint to make out the words, or fill in missing boilerplate. I'm not going to spend my time doing the easy parts of your assignment for you. If you expect a good grade, you are going to need to at least make the effort to do the easy parts yourself.

One way to help me avoid squinting is to use \LaTeX . This also makes it easy for you to correct your work when you resubmit them to me. To encourage this, I will give you a **2 point bonus** for each assignment you turn in that is written in \LaTeX .

Exams: 110 Points — There will be two exams. A midterm (see Canvas for date) and a cumulative final exam (see CWU's standard final schedule for date and time). Exams will be in-class and will require you to be able to write proofs. The midterm will be worth 50 points and the final exam worth 60 points.

Final Grades: 250 Points —

≥ 218	B+		≥ 233	A		≥ 225	A-
≥ 193	C+		≥ 208	B		≥ 200	B-
≥ 168	D+		≥ 183	C		≥ 175	C-
			≥ 158	D		≥ 150	D-

Accommodations

Central Washington University is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. Students with disabilities should contact Disability Services to discuss a range of options to removing barriers, including accommodations. Disability Services is located in Hogue 126. Call (509) 963-2214 or email ds@cwu.edu for more information.

In compliance with RCW 28B.137.010, Central Washington University makes every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students must present written notice to their instructor within the first two weeks of class listing the specific dates on which accommodations are required. Contact the Dean of Student Success at (509) 963-1515 for further information or questions.