



**Math 44: Mathematics in Art, Culture,
and Society: A Liberal Arts Math Class**
Fall 2026, CRN 27592, Section 13
Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 PM - 6:15 PM
Multimedia Learning Center (MLC), Room 105

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Andrew Jianyu Yu
Email:	yuandrew@fhda.edu
Office Location:	E37
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday, 6:15 PM - 7:00 PM in MLC 105

Course Description

This course is a survey of selected topics from contemporary mathematics, including problem-solving techniques and connections between mathematics and culture. It includes a selection of introductory topics from symmetry, graph theory, chaos and fractals, topology, number theory, geometry, combinatorics and counting, the mathematics of social choice, data analysis, probability and statistics, consumer mathematics, and personal financial management.

Prerequisite

Intermediate algebra or equivalent or higher, or appropriate placement beyond intermediate algebra

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

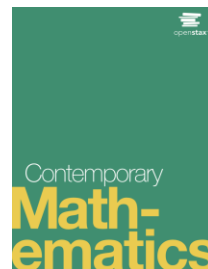
- (1) Analyze contemporary mathematical problems, apply problem solving techniques using a variety of methods, and communicate the results mathematically through a variety of forms.
- (2) Demonstrate and correctly apply basic mathematical techniques in at least five of the following ten areas: symmetry, graph theory, fractals and chaos theory, topology, number theory, geometry, combinatorics, methods of social choice, probability and statistics, economics and personal finance.
- (3) Examine and evaluate myths and realities about the contemporary discipline of mathematics and its practitioners.

Required Textbook

Contemporary Mathematics by Donna Kirk, OpenStax

This is an open-source textbook and it is free.

You do not need to buy a hard copy of the book. The PDF of each chapter is uploaded to Canvas. All homework, quizzes, and exams will be completed on MyOpenMath.



Course Content

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|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Sets | 7. Probability |
| 2. Logic | 8. Statistics |
| 3. Real Number Systems and Number Theory | 9. Metric Measurement |
| 4. Number Representation and Calculation | 10. Geometry |
| 5. Algebra | 11. Voting and Apportionment |
| 6. Money Management | 12. Graph Theory |
| | 13. Math and ... |

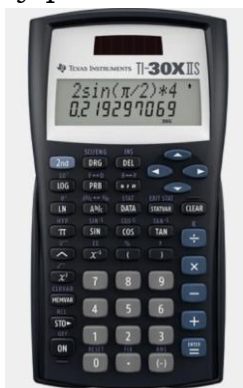
Scientific Calculator

A scientific calculator is required for this course. Each student must have their own calculator and bring it to every exam.

Your calculator should be able to perform basic arithmetic operations and calculate fractions, exponents, square roots, and other common scientific functions.

Examples of suitable calculators include the TI-30XIIS, TI-30XS MultiView, and Casio FX-300ES PLUS. Similar scientific calculators are also acceptable. A graphing calculator is not required.

A physical calculator is required for all exams. Phone calculator apps are strictly prohibited. Calculators may not be shared during an exam.



TI-30XIIS



TI-30XS MultiView



Casio FX-300ES PLUS

Technical Requirements

- **Your Email:** Please check your email regularly. You are welcome to email me with questions about lectures, homework, or personal emergencies. Please use the following subject-line format:

“Math44: _____”

Write your inquiry after the colon. For example:

Math44: Request an extension for Homework 5.

- **MyOpenMath:** Online homework, quizzes, and designated exams will be completed through MyOpenMath. You do not need to create a separate MyOpenMath account. This is a free resource. To access an assignment, simply open it through Canvas. If your score does not synchronize with the gradebook, please let me know.
- **Canvas (Main Learning Management System):** Each weekly module contains the lecture notes and required assignments for that week. Please check Canvas at least once per day to keep track of announcements and deadlines.

Canvas

There are a few areas on Canvas that you should check regularly.

- **Modules**
Each weekly module contains the notes and assignments for that week.
- **Grades**
Scores will be transferred from MyOpenMath to Canvas. If your score does not synchronize correctly, please notify your instructor.
- **Files**
Lecture notes, textbook materials, and the syllabus.
- **Discussion**
Course discussions, when assigned, will take place in the Discussion tab.
- **Announcements**
Important updates, schedule changes, and other course notices.

Mandatory Attendance

This is an in-person course; attendance will be taken at every class meeting. Students who accumulate 4 or more absences during the quarter may be dropped from the course. Please notify your instructor if you need to leave class early.

Submitting Written Work for Online Exams and Quizzes

For online exams and designated online quizzes, you must show your work and submit it to Canvas as **one PDF file**. Number each problem and each page, and organize your work clearly. You do not need to copy long problem statements or complicated graphs.

1. **Digital notes:** Save your work as a PDF and upload it to Canvas.
2. **Scanner:** Scan all pages and save them as one PDF.
3. **Genius Scan:** Take a picture of each page and combine all pages into one PDF.

NOTE: Submit one PDF file only. Points may be deducted if you submit multiple separate image files.



Homework & Discussion, 10% of the Course Grade

Online Homework	Written Homework
Must be completed on Canvas/MyOpenMath. The system will grade your answers automatically. You are encouraged to show your work, but you do not need to submit written work.	Must be completed on paper. The instructor will provide the problems. You must show all your work and submit it to Canvas for credit.

For in-class discussion: Students will solve problems in groups with guidance from the instructor. The instructor will actively engage with each group by asking questions and supporting students' reasoning. Points will be awarded based on answers and participation. Collaborative learning is an important part of this course, and students are expected to participate actively.

For other discussions: Topics will be posted in the Canvas Discussion tab. Follow the directions and post your response. These free-response discussions may not have a single correct answer. To receive full credit, you must reply to at least one other student's post.

Quizzes & Pop Quizzes, 20% of the Course Grade

The dates and topics of scheduled quizzes will be announced in advance.

Online Quiz	Written Quiz
Access the quiz through Canvas/MyOpenMath. This is an individual assignment; you must do your own work. Some online quizzes require written work to be uploaded to Canvas. If required, a separate assignment labeled "Quiz1P," "Quiz2P," etc. will be provided. The "P" indicates paperwork.	Written quizzes may be take-home or in-person. Whether notes are allowed will be announced in advance. You will receive several problems on a printed sheet and must show all your work on paper.

Pop Quiz

To encourage consistent engagement, unannounced pop quizzes may be given. Each quiz will focus on that day's topics and must be completed in a 10-minute window. You may use your notes and a calculator. These quizzes are time-sensitive, and **make-up quizzes are not available.**

Midterms, 45% of the Course Grade

Midterm 1: Week 4, Thursday, October 15

Midterm 2: Week 8, Thursday, November 12

All students are required to take each midterm in class. You will have the entire class period (2 hours and 15 minutes) to complete each exam.

The table below is a summary of exam policies.

Final Exam, 25% of the Course Grade

Week 12: Tuesday, December 8, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

All students are required to take a **comprehensive final exam** covering the course Student Learning Outcomes. Each exam will be administered either as an in-person online exam or an in-person written exam. The format will be announced in advance.

Students are expected to take exams at the scheduled time. Please plan accordingly. Exams cannot be rescheduled except in documented and approved circumstances in accordance with college policy. Exam scores will not be curved.

In-person Online Exam Policies	In-person Written Exam Policies
(1) Bring only one internet-connected device: either a laptop or a tablet. (2) Bring paper to show your work. (3) Your written work will either be collected in class or submitted to Canvas. (4) A lockdown browser will be required. (5) Each multiple-choice sub-problem allows 1 attempt. (6) Each free-response sub-problem allows 3 attempts. Your score on MyOpenMath/Canvas is final. No additional attempts will be granted. Written work will not be reviewed for partial credit.	The exam will be typed and printed. You will receive a physical copy of the exam with space provided for your work. Complete all work on the exam paper and submit the exam at the end of the testing period. Exams must be completed within the assigned time. Once submitted, no revisions, corrections, or resubmissions will be accepted for additional credit.
You may bring the following items to exams: (1) For each midterm, you may bring up to 3 sheets of notes (6 pages total, front and back). Each sheet must be 8.5 × 11 inches. Notes may be typed or handwritten. (2) For the final exam, you may bring up to 6 sheets of notes (12 pages total, front and back). The same paper-size requirements apply. <i>Additional exam policies are listed on the next page.</i>	

Additional exam policies...

Sharing a calculator, tablet, or laptop during an exam is strictly prohibited and considered cheating. Phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, earbuds/headphones, smart glasses, cameras, and other electronic devices are prohibited during written exams and must remain stored away. Students who leave the classroom must leave their phone on the instructor's desk until they return.

All exams are individual work. Students who cheat, plagiarize, or help someone else cheat will receive a zero on the exam. This zero cannot be replaced or dropped and will count toward the course grade.

Which Online Assignments Require Written Work?

If you see a separate assignment ending in “P,” you must submit your written work.

Online Assignment	Separate “P” Assignment	Written Work Required
HW1	No HW1P	No
Quiz2	No Quiz2P	No
Quiz3	Quiz3P	Yes
Midterm1	Midterm1 P or Midterm1 Paperwork	Yes
Final Exam	Final Exam P or Final Exam Paperwork	Yes

The “P” indicates paperwork/written work. If a separate “P” assignment is posted, written work must be submitted to Canvas. If no “P” assignment appears, no separate written-work submission is required.

Late Submission Policies

- Midterms and the final exam follow the exam rescheduling policy stated on the previous page.
- Each student may receive an extension for up to **one homework** assignment, either written or online.
- Each student may receive an extension for up to **one online quiz**. In-person written quizzes are time-sensitive and cannot be rescheduled.
- **To request an extension, email your instructor and wait for approval. If approved, a new due date will be provided. The extension must be requested within 3 days after the original due date. For example, if Homework 1 is due on October 1 at 11:59 PM, the deadline to request an extension is October 4 at 11:59 PM.**
- Late work is accepted only when an extension request is approved. Requests must follow the deadlines and procedures above. Otherwise, the assignment will receive a zero.

- **The final homework assignment and final quiz are not eligible for extensions or rescheduling.**

Check Points:

- Homework & Discussion: 10%; Quizzes & Pop Quizzes: 20%; Midterms: 45%; Final Exam: 25%. Late or missing work will receive zero credit unless an extension has been approved or an official accommodation applies.
- For in-person online exams, you must show all your work on paper and submit your work to Canvas. **If the required written work is not submitted, the exam will receive a score of zero.**
- Students are expected to regularly monitor Canvas for announcements, assignments, and deadlines.
- Unlike homework, in-person online exams allow only a limited number of attempts. Students are encouraged to solve each problem carefully and verify their work before submission. Additional attempts will not be granted for any reason.

Tutoring at the Student Success Center (SSC)

The Student Success Center (SSC) provides free tutoring services to support student learning. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these resources to strengthen their understanding and build confidence in mathematics.

Please visit the following website for details and schedules.

<https://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/>

If mathematics or statistics is not your strongest subject, please take advantage of this free tutoring service. Seek help early and practice consistently rather than waiting until difficulties accumulate.

Grading Rubrics

Your course grade will be assigned in the following standard:

A: 100% to 93%	A-: 92% to 90%	
B+: 89% to 86%	B: 85% to 83%	B-: 82% to 80%
C+: 79% to 75%	C: 74% to 70%	
D: 69% to 60%	F: below 60%	

Borderline grades of 89.0–89.9, 79.0–79.9, and 69.0–69.9 will be rounded to the next letter grade only if the student earns at least 70% on the final exam. All grade cutoffs are applied consistently and are not subject to negotiation. Transfer plans, university admission requirements, and scholarship requirements are not grounds for a grade increase. *No individual or class-wide curve will be applied.*

Extra Credit

There are no extra credit assignments in this course. Please do not request extra credit. Exam scores will not be curved, scaled, normalized, or increased based on class performance, score distribution, or individual requests.

Academic Integrity

All quizzes and exams are individual work. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Looking at, copying, receiving, or sharing another student's answers, including passing notes or written answers.
- Communicating with others during an assessment by speaking, writing, messaging, gestures, or any other method.
- Using unauthorized phones, computers, tablets, smartwatches, earbuds, smart glasses, cameras, or other electronic devices.
- Photographing, recording, screenshotting, or sharing quiz or exam questions.
- Using or sending assessment content to AI tools, websites, Chegg, Discord, social media, group chats, or another person to obtain answers or assistance.

Any violation will result in a zero on the assessment. The zero cannot be replaced or dropped, and the violation will be reported to the college in accordance with college policy.

Classroom Environment & Expectations

Students are expected to be present, attentive, and engaged during class.

- Electronic devices may be used only for course-related purposes. Students who continue using devices for unrelated activities after being asked to stop may be asked to leave for the remainder of the class.
- Side conversations are not permitted during instruction. The instructor may pause instruction until the conversation has ended.
- Disruptive behavior that interferes with the learning environment is not permitted. Students may be asked to leave for the remainder of the class if necessary. Repeated disruptions may result in further action in accordance with college policy.

Academic Calendar:

September 21: Fall classes begin

October 4: Last day to add 12-week classes

October 4: Last day to drop classes without a W

November 11 (Wednesday): Veterans Day holiday – no classes; offices closed

November 13: Last day to drop classes with a W

Important Note: It is the student's responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course if they decide not to complete it. After the withdrawal deadline has passed, students can no longer withdraw from the course.

November 26 (Thursday): Thanksgiving holiday – no classes; offices closed

November 27 (Friday): Thanksgiving holiday – no classes; offices closed

December 7-11: Final Exam Week

An academic quarter consists of 11 weeks of instruction and 1 week of final exams.

Grades must be submitted by Wednesday, December 16, by midnight

The instructor may make reasonable adjustments to the syllabus as needed to support student learning. Any changes will be communicated in a timely manner.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- Analyze contemporary mathematical problems, apply problem solving techniques using a variety of methods, and communicate the results mathematically through a variety of forms.
- Demonstrate and correctly apply basic mathematical techniques in at least five of the following ten areas: symmetry, graph theory, fractals and chaos theory, topology, number theory, geometry, combinatorics, methods of social choice, probability and statistics, economics and personal finance.
- Examine and evaluate myths and realities about the contemporary discipline of mathematics and its practitioners.

Office Hours:

6:15 PM - 7:00 PM

MLC105

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