

MATH 120
Fall 2013

Instructor	Dr. Gerald Wildenberg	Math 120	MWF Pioch 106 R Pioch 113
Office	Pioch C128	Class Times	R: 8:00 – 8:55 MWF 11:15–12:10
Phone	Office: 385-8179	Office Hours	T,R 12:30-1:30 other times by appointment
Email	gwildenberg@sjfc.edu		

The best place to get help is the Math Help Center. It's open long hours. There are students to help you. It's free. Location: Top floor of Galisano Gateway (above the Cyber Café)

This course meets the P4 core requirements:

P4: Explorations of the natural and technical world

Description: These courses are intended to explore specific scientific, mathematical, and technical topics and relate them to contemporary developments.

These courses will apply and analyze a discipline-specific process to solve a problem. It will also highlight how other disciplines and the world have been influenced because of the themes of the course. Students are expected to complete two courses in this area of the core. These courses can be from any discipline or combination of disciplines that satisfy the course goals and are designated as core courses, unless your major dictates otherwise. Courses in this core area emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of the course content and its application to solve problems in the world around us, making them distinct from those courses satisfying SQ requirements, which are about the nature of science and mathematics.

Student Learning Goals

1. Students will formulate a question/hypothesis and design a methodology to test it based on a discipline-specific problem-solving process.
2. Students will compare and contrast two strategies for solving a problem related to the theme(s) of the course and articulate their rationale for why one is more effective or appropriate than the other.
3. Students will identify and discuss an interaction between the theme(s) of the course and other areas of science, mathematics and/or technology.
4. Students will cite and explain how aspects of the world around us are impacted by the themes of the course.

REQUIRED:

TI 83 or TI 83-PLUS graphing calculator and SJFC email account

IMPORTANT NOTE

YOU NEED TO READ THE TEXT, DO HOMEWORK PROBLEMS AND COME TO CLASS READY TO PARTICIPATE. IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING I SAY, PLEASE SAY SO. THERE IS A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT OTHER STUDENTS DO NOT UNDERSTAND. IF I WANT YOU TO TAKE SOMETHING DOWN FROM THE BOARD, I WILL TELL YOU. YOU ARE IN CLASS TO THINK AND TO UNDERSTAND THE MATHEMATICS. UNDERSTANDING MATH TAKES MANY HOURS OF WORK AND YOU CANNOT EXPECT TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CLASS EACH DAY. YOU MUST WORK ON UNDERSTANDING.

THIS CLASS IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPTS. IF YOU PLAN TO NOT DO ANY WORK AND JUST “CRAM” THE NIGHT BEFORE THE TEST, YOU WILL BE UNHAPPY IN THE COURSE. IF YOU WORK WITH ME IN THIS COURSE, YOU WILL BE AMAZED AS TO HOW MUCH MATH YOU LEARN

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to attend every class session. I will take attendance. However, if you are not present, you are responsible for all of the content of the class period, including mathematical content, course announcements, and assigned homework. If you miss a class, I will not take office hour time to get you “up to speed”. If you miss a quiz or test without an extremely compelling excuse (e.g., surgery), you will not be allowed to make-up the quiz or test and will receive a grade of 0. If you miss more than three classes (without Academic Affairs Office verifying that you are sick or you have a doctor's note), you will automatically receive an F in the course.

Samples: Unless I specifically hear otherwise from you, I retain the right to copy any of your work.

Cellular Phones: Please silence all cellular phones during my classes. For security reasons, cellular phones cannot be exposed during examinations. This means that during an exam, your phone should be *off and put away*, not just silent.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Participation in class	Assigned home work not graded but students will be randomly chosen to put problems on board.
Project	Project will be required.
In Class quizzes	Announced quizzes, lowest quiz score not counted in final quiz grade
In-class tests—	Students have 3 in -class individual assessments on the concepts and applying concepts.
Final Exam	Individual comprehensive assessment during final exam week.
Math skills test	See information below in the syllabus

GRADING

Tests -- in-class	50%	Final Exam	25%
Quizzes	10%	Project	5%
Math Skills Assessment	10%		

**A and A - : above 93 for an A, 90- 92 for an A-
B+, B, and B -: from 80 – 89, above 88 for a B+, above 83 for a B
C+, C, and C- : from 70 – 79, above 78 for a C+, above 73 for a C
D+, D, and C-: from 60 – 69, above 68 for a D+, above 63 for a D
Below 60, grade of F**

IN-CLASS TESTS

There will be three individual announced assessments during the semester. These tests will be comprehensive. Test # 2 will cover material from test # 1 and any material covered since test # 1. Likewise, for test # 3. I weight increasing grades higher.

FINAL EXAM

This exam will be comprehensive and during the scheduled time during exam week. The final exam is required in order to receive a grade above an F in the course.

QUIZZES

There will be short quizzes on most Thursdays. The quiz will cover material previously covered in class and homework assignments. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final point count for quizzes. No make-up will be allowed if a quiz is missed. A grade of 0 will be recorded.

MATH SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The *Level D* Math Skills Assessment is a requirement for *MATH120*. This assessment is designed to test the prerequisite skills necessary to succeed in this course. The test will be given during one of our class meeting times from Tuesday, September 10th through Monday, September 16th. A Blackboard account under the heading **Math Assessment** has been set up to provide you with the necessary Math Skills Assessment information, including your assessment grade.

Those students who earn an *84% or higher* on the Math Skills Assessment will satisfy this requirement. You will then be awarded the maximum points (equal to 10% of the final course grade) toward this course component.

Those students who earn *below an 84%* will have up to three* additional opportunities to fulfill the *Level D* Math Skills Assessment requirement. Retakes will be given from Tuesday, September 24th through Thursday, October 24th. The times are as follows: Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30 – 1:30 and Tuesday evenings from 5:00 – 6:00. Those students who do not earn at least an 84% after three re-takes or after the final re-take opportunity on Thursday, October 24th will receive 0 points (equal to 10% of their final course grade) toward this course component.

The in-class and retake assessments will be completed on the computer using the MyMathTest software. Therefore, all tests will be proctored and administered in a computer lab.

****You may only retake the Math Skills Assessment once during any given week. You must complete your FIRST retake on or before Thursday, October 3rd. Those who do not retake the assessment on or before this date will only have two additional opportunities.***

PARTICIPATION IN CLASS

Students will be randomly selected to put assigned problems on board. I will grade with a

- 0: student chooses not to put on board or absent
- 1: student puts on board but not completely correct
- 2: student puts on board and correct

PROJECT

Project will be handed out with due date and details.

A NOTE ABOUT CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

While I do hope that the subject never comes up, if cheating or plagiarism occurs, I will follow the college procedures that are laid out in the *Student Handbook* for the college. ETHICS AND CONDUCT

DISCLAIMER

Please be aware that any work you complete for this course may be photocopied and kept on file for the benefit of studying assessment of student learning.

College Policy Concerning Students with Disabilities

This statement regarding Fisher's ADA policy should be included on all syllabi: In compliance with St. John Fisher College policy and applicable laws, appropriate academic accommodations are available to students with disabilities. All requests for accommodations must be supported by appropriate documentation/diagnosis and determined reasonable by St. John Fisher College. Students with documented disabilities (physical, learning, psychological) who may need academic accommodations are advised to refer to the Disability Services website

<http://home.sjfc.edu/AcademicAffairs/Disabilities/DisabilityOverview.asp>

Questions should be directed to the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Office of Academic Affairs, Kearney 202. Late notification will delay requested accommodations.