

Spring 2006 MTH U115 APPLICATIONS IN ALGEBRA
COURSE POLICIES & SYLLABUS

Instructor: Richard Porter

Phone: ext. 5888

Office: 529 Lake Hall

E-mail: r.porter@neu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:35 and by appointment

Text: Finite Mathematics & Its Applications by Lial, Greenwell & Ritchey, 8th edition (the access code for the online exercises is included).

General Course Objective: To introduce students to interesting and useful applications of mathematics while improving their basic skills, problem solving capabilities and understanding of the power of abstraction.

GETTING STARTED

- **Get a Class Packet:** Please pick up a class packet for MTH U115 at NU Reprographics in the Ell Center (behind the book store). The title page will most likely include the name of the course coordinator, Joan Campbell.
- **Register for the Online Exercises:** Use the access code that comes with your copy of the text and the course id, **porter83568**, to register for the online exercises for our section of the course. If you bought a used copy of the text and do not have an access code, you can purchase the access code online or at the bookstore. For instructions to obtain an access code, go to www.coursecompass.com. Under the heading for Students, click on Register.
- **Get a Calculator:** A calculator to perform matrix operations is required, preferably a TI-83. Note that cell phones are not allowed during quizzes or tests. There is no sharing of calculators during quizzes or tests.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Attendance Policy:** It is important that you attend and participate in all class meetings. A half-grade (for example, from a B+ to a B) will be deducted from your final grade for *each* unexcused absence following the third missed class. Any requests to have an upcoming absence excused should be made to me in writing or e-mail as much before the missed class as possible.
2. **Quizzes:** There will be a weekly quiz to keep you up to date on the material. If you miss a quiz there is no make-up. If the missed quiz is due to a hospitalization or to a university supported absence (i.e. a scheduled game in which an athlete is participating), then the following quiz will count twice to replace the missing grade. This does NOT apply if you miss class due to illness. The best 8 quizzes will be used to determine your quiz average.
3. **Midterm and Final Exam:** There will be a one-hour midterm and a two-hour, cumulative, departmental final exam. **No student will be granted a request for a special final exam unless it is due to a registrar created conflict. If you miss either of these exams you will receive a grade of zero, as there will be no make-up exams given.** A plane ticket home will not excuse you from the final exam, so please plan accordingly. Our final exam is scheduled for Thursday, April 27 at 3:30 PM.

4. **Homework and Online Exercises:** Homework will be assigned at each class. You can earn an additional quiz grade by completing all of the online exercises, in which case your additional quiz grade is your average for the online exercises.
5. **Practice Problems and Summary Sheet Assignments:** To help you in your learning of the course material there will in-class Practice Problems and assigned Summary Sheets.
6. **Final Grade:** Your numerical grade in the course will be determined as follows:
 Quizzes: 30%, Midterm 30%, and Final Exam: 40% plus up to 2 additional points for your work on the Practice Problems and Summary Sheet Assignments
THERE IS NO SCALING OF QUIZ OR EXAM GRADES IN THIS COURSE.
 Your letter grade for the course is determined by your numerical grade as follows:

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**		ALL OTHER COLLEGES	
Final Avg	Grade	Final Avg	Grade
94 - 100	A	94 - 100	A
90 - 93	A-	90 - 93	A-
87 - 89	B+	87 - 89	B+
83 - 86	B	83 - 86	B
80 - 82	B-	80 - 82	B-
77 - 79	C+	77 - 79	C+
73 - 76	C	73 - 76	C
0 - 72	U	70 - 72	C-
		67 - 69	D+
		63 - 66	D
		60 - 62	D-
		0 - 59	F

7. **You must receive a grade of C or higher in this course to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics. A final grade lower than 73 will receive a U (unsatisfactory) and it will be necessary for you to repeat the course and receive a C or better in order to graduate.
8. It is your responsibility to be aware of what happens in the classroom, including announcements of possible exam (or quiz) date changes, material that will be covered and changes to the syllabus, which may occur. If classes are cancelled for any reason, scheduled quizzes or exams will be given the following class. Announcements will also be posted on the class page of www.coursecompass.com.
9. If you have a concern about this course that cannot be resolved by speaking with me, then please contact the course coordinator, Joan Campbell, 543 NI, ext. 4882, j.campbell@neu.edu or Vice-Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Professor Stanley Eigen, 527 Lake Hall, ext. 5647, eigen@neu.edu.
10. You may receive any extra help in this course at the Math Tutoring Center in 540B NI. The tutoring center offers free tutoring on an individual basis. You just need to sign up for an appointment. Please seek help as soon as you experience any difficulty, do not wait until just before an exam.

The hours for the Tutoring Center in 540B NI are:
 Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
 Thursday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
 Friday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

In addition, tutoring is available in Snell Library. Go to the Peer Tutoring Center on the 2nd floor or call 373-2150 to schedule a tutor.

11. Northeastern University is committed to the principles of intellectual honesty and integrity. All members of the Northeastern community are expected to maintain complete honesty in all academic work, presenting only that which is their own work in tests and assignments.
12. We encourage students with disabilities, including “invisible” disabilities like chronic diseases or learning disabilities, to discuss with me after class or during my office hours appropriate accommodations which might be helpful for you. Your disability must be verifiable. The Disabilities Resource Center (20 Dodge Hall, ext. 2675) can provide you with information and other assistance.

MTH U115 Topics — Spring 2006

Section Topic

- 7.1 Sets
- 7.2 Venn Diagrams
- 7.3 Introduction to Probability
- 7.4 Basic Concepts of Probability
- 8.1 Multiplication Principle & Permutations
- 8.2 Combinations
- 8.3 Probability Applications of Counting Principles
- 2.3 Addition & Subtraction of Matrices
- 2.4 Matrix Multiplication
- 2.4 Organizing & Using Data in Matrices

MIDTERM EXAM (Tentative Date – February 27)

- 2.5 Matrix Inverses (2x2)
- 2.5 Using Matrix Inverses to Solve Systems of Equations
- Cryptography
- 10.1 Markov Chains
- Graphing Linear Equations
- Point of Intersection (Elimination & Substitution Methods)
- 3.1 Systems of Inequalities
- 3.2 Solving Linear Programming Problems
- 3.3 Applications of Linear Programming

Important Dates

Monday 1/16 Martin Luther King’s Birthday – No School
Monday 1/23 Last day to file a final exam conflict form.
Monday 2/20 Presidents’ Day – No School
Monday – Friday 3/6 – 3/10 – Spring Break
Friday 3/31 Last day to drop a Spring class.
Monday 4/17 Patriots’ Day – No School
Wednesday 4/19 Last Day of Classes
Thursday 4/20 Reading Day
Thursday 4/27 Final Exam 3:30 - 5:30 PM