

Mat 363 Mathematical Problem Solving

Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Russell Rainville

Office:

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Administrative Assistant: Carol Weeks 778-7120

Office Hours:

M and F 1:00 - 2:15
T and Th 9:00 - 11:00
Other times by Appointment

Texts:

“How to solve it” by George Poyla

Grading:

There will be four parts to your grade, class attendance, a journal of work on problems, class presentations, and a paper. †

† Note: “*Equal educational opportunity is offered to students with special needs due to disability. Please notify the instructor if a reasonable accomodation is needed to meet course requirements.*”

Attendance:*

You are required to attend class. You are required to talk in class. This class is a group effort, we need everyone's participation.

Late work:

Work is due on time. Late work will be accepted only if there is a significant nonacademic reason (death in the family, illness, *etc.*)

* 1) *In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an H1N1 swine flu outbreak, the format and attendance requirements for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. Should this occur, you will be provided an addendum to the course syllabus that will supersede the initial version.*

2) *We are asking all members of the UMF community to help us in limiting the spread of this virus and other communicable illnesses. Students who are experiencing influenza-like symptoms—a fever, sore throat, and/or cough—should not attend class. These absences will not be penalized. You do not need to provide a note from your physician. However, it is your responsibility to notify all your instructors (via e-mail, telephone, or voice mail) as soon as possible about your condition. You will still be responsible for all course-related work, but appropriate accommodations will be provided.*

3) *Should you experience a fever, sore throat, and/or cough, you need immediately to contact the Health Center at 778-7200 or your own health care provider. According to the Maine Center for Disease Control, you must be placed in isolation (not in your room in the residence hall) either by returning to your home or by being placed in a pre-designated isolation room in one of our residence halls. If you remain on campus, the Health Center will assign you to available space where you must stay until you are free of fever, without fever-reducing medication, for a period of 24 hours or until your symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer. You should not return to class until that time. For more information about the progress of the H1N1 virus in Maine, please go to <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/index.shtml>;*

Outline of Course:

It is intended that students will take this class the first semester of their senior year and will know a substantial amount of mathematics that they can use in solving problems.

We are a problem solving group. We will work on problems. What is important in this course is method, understanding, and learning. You will discuss problems in class, work on problems, and write about your work.

Some of the problems will use mathematics that you have learned in other classes. Some will use mathematics that you will need to learn from other students or from books in the library.

Paper:

You will write a paper. 10 to 15 typed pages on a problem that you choose in conjunction with your instructor.

Journal:

This is a file folder or loose leaf binder that contains your work on problems. It will contain the false starts, the incomplete solutions, and finished work. It will contain notes on how you decided what you should do to solve the problem.

Each page will be dated. Each week the new pages will be collected and graded.

Class Presentations:

Each student will make a 20—minute presentation on a problem.