

Math 2009 Sophomore Seminar, Spring 2018

Course information

Tentative; A hard copy will be distributed once everything is finalized.

Class Hour: 12:05–12:55pm F

Classroom: Boyd 303

Instructor: Dr. Jeong-Hyun Kang

E-mail Address: jkang@westga.edu; *best way to contact me!*

Office and Phone: Boyd 328

Office Hours: TuTh 1:00-2:00, 4:45-5:15; F 12:55-2:25, 4:20–4:50pm *tentative*

Course webpage: www.westga.edu/~jkang/2009.html

* **It's your responsibility to check the course webpage regularly** for homework assignments, class log and announcements (particularly useful when you miss a class or when review for an exam).

Textbook: No textbook

Course Topics: Problem solving, Applications and importance of mathematics, Sub-areas of mathematics and their interconnectedness, Careers in mathematics and how to prepare them

Learning outcomes: Students will be able to

- Identify the major areas of mathematics
- Communicate various mathematical topics and ideas in written and oral form
- Identify the different career tracks in the mathematical sciences
- Describe the various inter-relations among the broad areas of mathematics, and between mathematics and other disciplines
- Identify strategies for problem solving, and apply basic mathematical techniques to solve specific elementary mathematical problems
- Last but not least, understand math fundamentals such as (i) basic algebra operations with abstract letters or (ii) logical writing that reflects logical thinking

Attendance Policy: Your attendance will be recorded every class and take into an account toward your final grade. Missing **two** classes will NOT affect your attendance points. (Of course, missing a class on an exam day will affect your exam point.)

Presentation: Every student will give a 10-minute presentation, followed by a possible 2-min Q&A session.

- **Topic and content:**

- * A math job that you find interesting in any math career site, including <http://weusemath.org/> or <http://www.beanactuary.org/jobs/>. Ideally, it would be a job you'd like to apply for, if the timing were right, but if you don't find a job listing you'd actually want to pursue, find one that is at least close to your interests. Your presentation will have to convey

- the name of the profession
- why the job is interesting to you
- what math subjects are required for the profession
- how the math is used in the profession
- any other interesting story to share if there is any
- You are expected to prepare a power point or any reasonable means for your talk.
- You will receive an invitation email with a link where you can reserve a slot online by Jan. 14. It will be on a first come, first served basis. There will be **four** slots available per day. **The link will be closed at 5pm, Monday, January 22.**
- If you miss your reserved spot for any reason, another opportunity will be given if any other slot is available during regular class hours. If no slot is available during regular class hours, you will have to do only with me during my office hours hence will miss your chance to receive “scores” from the classmates (*See below in Grading Policies.*)

Homework: Homework may be assigned after class through the course webpage. It is your responsibility to check the course webpage to be aware of homework. Although it will **not** be collected or graded, you are strongly encouraged to do them in order to prepare for exams.

Exam: There will be **two** exams.

- Exam #1 on Fri. 2/16
- Exam #2 on Tue. 4/20

- The exams will be based on mathematics presented or assigned by me.
- If you have a **provable excuse** (such as an official university field trip or doctor’s note) and **notify me well in advance** (at least one week earlier), then missed hour exams may be made up **prior** to the actual test date. Somebody’s wedding or gathering with a boy/girl friend after several months are NOT appropriate excuses.
- If you miss your chance to take the exam before or on the actual exam hours, an opportunity may be given at a later time with reduced weight of 70% of the scores attained.
- Each exam counts 15 points. Since not all the students in the class have the same math background, the raw scores will be scaled to points, in each exam, as follows:

Groups	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Raw scores	15	20	25	30
Scaled points	15	15	15	15

Grading Policy:

- Attendance 40pts
- Presentation 30pts (15pts will be determined by me, and 15pts by the classmates; *See a separate “feedback” sheet.*)
- Two Exams 30pts (15pts each) after appropriately scaled as described above.
- 100 points total

Letter Grades: $\geq 90\%$ A; $\geq 80\%$ B; $\geq 70\%$ C; $\geq 60\%$ D; below 60% F

Other Class Policies:

- COMMUNICATIONS:
 - * Homework problems will not be specified during class but will be posted only on the class-log of the course webpage. Hence, it is essential for you to check the course webpage after almost every class.
 - * Email communications regarding the course should be done only in the domain of westga.edu.
- EXAMS/GRADES:
 - * A final answer without showing procedure won't earn any credit in exams.
 - * No calculator during the exams.
- CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are expected not to disturb your classmate's learning.

University Policies: Please carefully review the following information at

<https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/> or

<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>.

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.