
MATH 250, Foundations of Mathematics
Aug 25 - Dec 7, 2021

Section 005 TuTh 2:30-3:45
MSC N306

Instructor: David Zureick-Brown, Office: W430 Math and Science Center

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Office Hours: Mondays 5:30-6:30pm, via Zoom <https://emory.zoom.us/j/92744763592>, and by appointment.

Required textbook: “[An Introduction to Abstract Mathematics](#)”, Bond and Keane

Course website: <http://www.math.emory.edu/~dzb/teaching/250Fall12021/>

Prerequisites: Math 112 or equivalent

Learning objectives: we will cover the following topics.

- Logic – statements, negation, converse, etc.
- Mathematical prose and rigor – how to write mathematics correctly and in complete sentences.
- Techniques of proof – proof by contradiction, induction, proof by cases;
- Sets, relations, functions – the building blocks of mathematics
- Some additional topics: Cardinality (different sizes of infinity); Numbers (what they are, divisibility transcendental numbers vs. algebraic numbers (i.e., the difference between π and $2^{(1/2)}$))

See the document [assignments-math-250.pdf](#) for a weekly breakdown of the course content.

Grading: Your grade will consist of the following. Your lowest weekly assignment will be dropped.

Weekly Homework Assignments	40%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	30%

Grade scale: A lower bound on your grade is given by the following table.

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F = 0-62
A- = 90-92	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Typical rubric: Proofs will typically be graded on the following rubric (out of 10 points).

10	Flawless
9	Basically correct, but not literally 100% correct
7	Mostly correct, but with at least one error
5	Numerous errors
2	Proof contains a fundamental misunderstanding
0	No part of the proof was correct

Assignment dates:

Weekly Assignments	Due Tuesdays, at the start of class.
Midterm	Tuesday, October 19 (tentative)
Final Exam	Thursday December 9, 3:00pm - 5:30pm

Rewrites will be allowed, and in fact expected, on weekly graded assignments, and students will be able to recover up to half of the missed points. You can submit a rewrite of a problem any time before the final exam. Please submit the original problem and the rewrite together (and label them

as such). You may rewrite a problem multiple times, and you may resubmit a rewrite as late as you like (you can even bring them to the final exam).

To submit a rewrite, please include your original assignment, the date of the original assignment, and please make it clear which problems you are rewriting.

Late submissions. Any assignment submitted after the due date will be treated as a “rewrite” (you can receive up to half credit for the assignment).

Honor Code: Remember that copying another student’s work is a violation of the Honor Code and will be treated as such. Please review Emory’s Honor Code, available [here](#).

You are free to consult any sources (animate or inanimate) while doing your homework; working in groups is encouraged! But, if you use anything (or anyone) other than your class notes or the texts listed above, you should say so on your homework – please state at the end of every problem any sources used.

On the other hand, you are expected to make an honest attempt to do every problem on your own before consulting other sources.

A good rule of thumb to avoid plagiarism is the following – when doing the final write up of a problem, do not have any text books, web pages, or classmate’s write up open in front of you. If you get stuck when writing up an assignment, go back and look again; just make sure that you organize the mathematics in your head before writing a proof rather than copying a solution from some source. **This is a generous homework policy. Please do not abuse it.**

Accessibility. Emory University complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you are in need of an accommodation, please contact your instructor to discuss this as soon as possible. All information will be held in the strictest confidence, and appropriate documentation should be presented within a week of the beginning of the course. For more information, please go [here](#).

Classroom safety. Everybody must keep their face mask on at all times when they are indoors on campus, and this includes in our classroom. Your face mask must cover your nose, mouth, and chin, and should fit snugly. Due to the necessity of keeping your PPE on, eating and drinking is forbidden in the classroom. [Please read this Emory advice about quality and fit of mask.](#)

Health considerations. At the very first sign of not feeling well, stay at home and reach out for a health consultation. Please consult the [campus FAQ](#) for how to get the health consultation. As you know, Emory does contact tracing if someone has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A close contact is defined as someone you spend more than 15 minutes with, at a distance less than 6 feet, not wearing facial coverings. This typically means your roommates, for example. However, your classmates are not close contacts as long as we are following the personal protective equipment protocols in the classroom: wearing facial coverings, staying six feet apart.

Attendance policy. This semester due to the pandemic, some students might be sick or will need to go into isolation or quarantine. If you are sick, understand that I will be flexible about attendance. Please make sure to email me so that we can discuss your individual circumstances. For students in quarantine who are well, I will provide ways that you can keep up with your schoolwork. Please also contact me via email if you are in quarantine.