Mathematics 212 Syllabus: Fall 2018

1 About the instructor

1. Name: Aaron Pollack
2. Office: Physics 213
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4. course website: https://services.math.duke.edu/~apollack/teachingF18.html

2 Basic course information

2. Class meeting: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:40pm-5:55pm, in Physics 235
3. Final exam: Friday, December 14th 2018, 9am-noon
4. My office hours: TBD, and by appointment
5. Midterms:
   (a) Midterm 1: September 25 (Tuesday) in class
   (b) Midterm 2: October 25 (Thursday) in class
   (c) Midterm 3: November 29 (Thursday) in class
6. Homework: Due every Thursday, at the beginning of class, starting September 6th 2018, unless explicitly mentioned to the contrary by instructor email.

3 Grading

The different sections of Math 212 at Duke are independent, but all sections take the same final. You must pass the final in order to be guaranteed to pass the course.

Your grade will be determined by the following guidelines, which are not binding, and are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor: I will order the students in this class who pass the final by taking a weighted average of the final, the three midterms, and the homework, with the following weights: 35% final, 20% midterm 1, 20% midterm 2, 20% midterm 3, 5% homework. The above percentages for the exams and homework do not tell you what your grade will be, but only the relative weight that I will assign to the different graded pieces. The letter grade you receive will then be a function of your order on this list. Instructors will use the final exam to ensure that grading is consistent across all sections of Math 212.

As reiterated in the Block Calculus Course Policies, the above percentages should be taken as rough guidelines; they are not binding in any way. They are only meant to give you a sense of the relative importance of each exam to your final letter grade.
Late homework will not be accepted. However, your two lowest homework scores will automatically be dropped. **Plan on doing all the homework** as this is the only way to learn the material.

The above policies are guidelines. The instructor reserves the right to alter these in any and all unusual circumstances, including, but not limited to: we miss classes/exam(s) due to extreme weather; a student misses a midterm due to severe illness; etc.

### 3.1 Exam policy

You are not permitted to use calculators on the exams.

### 3.2 Homework policy

The only way to learn the concepts and techniques, and to do well in this course is to work through all of the homework problems. This will ensure that you do not get a false sense of security about if you truly understand the material. However, working with your peers is acceptable. **You must write up the solutions to the problems yourself.** Copying solutions from others or a solutions manual will be deemed academic misconduct. If you worked with peers to solve a problem, you should acknowledge on your homework who you worked with.

- Homework must be written clearly. All work must be shown.
- Homework must be stapled.

### 4 Administrative policies

- University-excused absences: If you will miss one of the midterms due to religious observation or for representing the university in varsity athletics, you must **email** me at the above email address **no later** than two weeks before the absence, but preferably as soon as possible.

- If a student is found responsible through the Office of Student Conduct for academic dishonesty on a graded item in this course, the student will receive a score of zero for that assignment, and instructor reserves the right to further reduce the final grade for the course by up to two letter grades, at the discretion of the instructor. If a student’s admitted academic dishonesty is resolved directly through a faculty-student resolution agreement approved by the Office of Student Conduct, the terms of that agreement will dictate the grading response to the assignment at issue.

- Please review the university policies regarding the short-term illness notification form, or STINF.

### 5 Other notes

- You should read the material in the textbook before I cover it in class.
- If you work through all the homework yourself until you thoroughly understand the concepts and techniques, but never turn in your written work (and thus get a 0 for a HW grade), you
will do **much better** in this course than someone who turns in perfect homework without mastering the concepts.

- This course moves quickly, and has a lot of difficult material. You are strongly advised not to miss class, and not to fall behind.

- There are many resources available to you, such as the math help room and all of the office hours of all of the math 212 instructors. It is a good idea to make use of these!

- Do not be afraid to ask me as many questions as you like, especially in office hours, no matter stupid you think the questions might be. I will always try to answer them, as much as time permits.

- Frequently coming to office hours is a great way to ensure you are keeping up with the material.