

First Day of Class -- Introductory Comments and Advice

Are you thinking about a math major? If so, please come talk to me!

Course information

- Class website: <https://services.math.duke.edu/~cbray/TermFall/MyClass.html> (If there are other instructors, there will be a link there also to a shared course website.)
- Read through all of this very important information! And familiarize yourself with the links

Course operations

- Content Syllabus -- shows topics covered, HW exercises that will be assigned through the term,...
- Class Schedule -- shows exam dates, daily plans, HW assignments, due dates,...
- Class Grades -- weighted average on 4-pt scale; exams all “curved” individually; HW on fixed curve; attendance counts too!
- YouTube Recordings -- You should make heavy use of these recordings!

Learning goals -- *This is a course about ideas, not answers! Reasoning, not conclusions!* This will be reflected in the lectures, and on the exams. You should focus on this too -- in your learning, your work on assignments, and your work on exams. On exams, points are awarded mostly on the basis of: validity/completeness of your reasoning, clarity of thought, clarity of written communication.

Learning strategy -- There's not enough class meeting time to learn all of the material in class! You will learn some in class, but should plan to learn much OUTSIDE of class. See also the How To Do Well In This Course pages on the course website. Related notes:

- Read book and notes (expected parts) BEFORE class. Aim for clear understanding of foundations, superficial understanding of the rest.
- Lectures will include the most important ideas for you to digest in the course. You will understand some in class, but probably not all. Annotate your notes with time stamps of confusing parts to help you find those discussions later in the recordings.
- Read book and notes (parts covered in class) AFTER class to help you understand the lectures, and then use the lecture recordings to help you understand the book and notes.
- Throughout all of this, maintain a list of questions. Add when you identify what you don't understand, cross out when you feel you do understand it.
- Use all of the Course Resources -- lecture notes, old exams, the Help Room, ARC options... Also office hours (all instructors!).
- Have a “study group” you can work with. Try to create dialogue on challenging topics.
- Use the homework as exam practice. Show all work; explain your reasoning! This is essential practice for the exams.