

TRANSITIONS TO ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

Class Website: www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/Math3325F16.html

On the course website you will find the homework as it is assigned, as well as a copy of this syllabus, exam dates, and announcements as they are made.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to proofs and the abstract approach that characterizes upper-level mathematics courses. It serves as a transition to advanced mathematics, and ideally is taken after the initial calculus sequence and before (or concurrently with) mid-level mathematics courses. The objective is for students to develop the skills and techniques they will need as they study any type of advanced mathematics, whether pure or applied. In particular, this course covers topics that are ubiquitous throughout mathematics (e.g., logic, sets, relations, functions) and helps prepare students for classes such as Real Analysis, Abstract Algebra, and Advanced Linear Algebra.

Instructor

Dr. Mark Tomforde
Office 601 PGH
www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde

Class Meetings

MWF Noon–12:50PM
Room CBB 110

Prerequisites

Math 1432 (Calculus II)

Office Hours

MWF 11:00AM–11:50AM
Office 601 PGH

I encourage you to come by my office if you have questions, need help with homework problems, or want to talk about the material.

Objectives

Students will learn to **read, write, and understand proofs**. Throughout the course students will be exposed to the notation, language, and methods used by mathematicians, and gain practice using these in their own proofs. In addition, there will be a great emphasis on writing and communication.

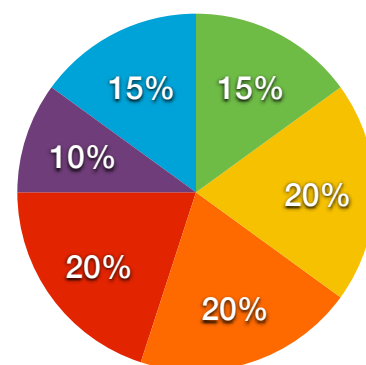
Textbook

A Transition to Advanced Mathematics, 7th Ed., by Douglas Smith, Maurice Eggen, and Richard St. Andre.

Grading

Your final grade for the class will be determined as follows:

- Class Participation: 10%
- Homework: 15%
- Written Proofs: 15%
- Exam 1: 20%
- Exam 2: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%



Class Participation

Class participation is based on attendance and how engaged you are in class meetings. It is vital to attend every class meeting and pay attention, particularly since some lecture material does not appear in the text. Questions on exams will be drawn from homework, reading, and lectures. If you have to miss class for school approved reasons (e.g., school sponsored events, major religious holidays) you need to let me know as soon as possible, and prior to the missed class, for it to not count against your grade. Please keep in mind that class participation is 10% of your final grade, which is significant; a 10% difference in your final score in the class can change your grade by an entire letter grade or more (e.g., an A- to a B-, or a C+ to a D+).

Homework

Homework problems with due dates will be given every week on the course web page. Your lowest homework score throughout the term will be dropped when calculating your final grade. This is meant to account for unexpected absences (e.g., illness or getting caught in traffic). You are encouraged to discuss homework problems with others, but the write-up should be done by you alone and in your own words.

Homework Policies

- **Homework is due at the beginning of class on its due date. Late homework will not be accepted for any reason. Homework is late once I have started lecturing.**
- **Homework without a name will not be accepted.**
- **Homework will not be accepted by email.**
- **Homework should be written legibly and on only one side of the paper. Leave enough room for the grader to make comments.**
- **Homework should be stapled in the upper-left-hand corner.**
- **Homework should be written on standard-sized paper (8.5" x 11"), with no "fringe" down the side as a result of the paper having been torn out of a spiral notebook**
- **Homework solutions should be presented in sequential order. For example, if Section 2.1, Problems #6, and #12 are assigned together with Section 2.2, Problem #2, then your write-up should contain Section 2.1, Problem #6 first; Section 2.1, Problem #12 second; and Section 2.2, Problem #2 third.**
- **Homework not picked up within two weeks of when it is returned will be discarded.**

Points will be deducted from homework for each infraction of the above policies.

Written Proofs

You will be assigned 5 Written Proofs throughout the semester. You should think of these as writing assignments. These problems will ask you to prove a statement and write up the proof in “textbook style”. In the first few weeks of class we will talk about what is expected in these proofs, but you should be aware that, **at a minimum, they should contain complete sentences, proper spelling and grammar, correct English usage, and follow the conventions of mathematics writing.** I will grade these Written Proofs and give you detailed feedback when I do so. As with the homework, you may talk with others as you figure out how to do the problem or establish how to show the statement, but the write-up (which is a bulk of the work on these assignments) should be done by you alone and in your own words.

As with homework, Written Proofs are due at the beginning of class on the date they are due. Late Written Proofs will not be accepted. Once I begin lecturing, material to be turned in that day is considered late. **Your lowest Written Proof score throughout the semester will be dropped when calculating your final grade.** This is meant to account for unexpected absences (e.g., illness or getting caught in traffic).

Exams

There will be two exams and one final. All will be held in our usual classroom.

Exam 1: Wednesday, September 21 in class.

Exam 2: Wednesday, October 26 in class.

Final: Wednesday, December 14, 11AM--2PM in our usual classroom.

Calculator Policy: Calculators are not allowed during exams.

Makeup Policy

Not being present for an exam or turning in an assignment late results in a score of zero, and you will not be allowed to make up the work. Exceptions may be made in the case of extreme circumstances, such as a documented, serious illness. In the event that you cannot be present to take an exam on the day it is held you need to speak to me in advance and make every attempt to do the work before (and not after) the rest of the class.

Reading Assignments

Reading assignments will be given weekly on the course web page. Completing the reading assignments is just as critical as doing the written homework. **You should read the assigned sections before we cover them in class,** so that you are prepared to answer questions or ask about material you do not understand.

Honor Principle

University of Houston students are expected to adhere to the Academic Honesty Policy as described in the Student Handbook. In this course this shall mean the following: **Exams shall be worked on independently and without the use of your textbook, homework, calculators, or class notes. Homework and Written Proofs may be discussed with others, but the write-up must be done on the student's own and in the student's own words, without the help of other people or outside sources. If you are aware of anyone who is cheating or receiving unfair outside assistance, you are honor bound to inform the professor of what is occurring, and you will be considered an accomplice if you do not.** Anyone caught cheating will receive a failing grade in the course and be turned over to the department chair and dean for further disciplinary action.

Classroom Environment

As your professor, I hold the fundamental belief that everyone has a right to learn and deserves unrestricted access to education. I also believe that everyone in this class is fully capable of mastering the material. I value diversity, social justice, inclusion, and equality. I am therefore committed to creating a classroom environment that welcomes all students, regardless of race, gender, social class, religious beliefs, etc. If there is anything causing barriers to your inclusion or achievement, please come talk to me. Likewise, any student with a disability or chronic health problem should talk to me about the types of assistance that might be offered.

No Class

There will be no class on November 4, 2016 because I will be out of town at a conference.

Important Dates

The following are some important dates you should keep in mind:

September 5, Labor Day, No Class

September 7, Official Reporting Day (ORD), Last day to Drop/Withdraw without receiving a grade

September 21, Exam 1 (during class time in our usual classroom)

October 26, Exam 2 (during class time in our usual classroom)

October 28, Last day to Drop/Withdraw with a W grade

November 4, Dr. Tomforde is out of town, No Class

November 23 -- November 26, Thanksgiving Break, No Class

December 3, Last Day of Classes

December 14, Final Exam (from 11AM -- 2PM, in our usual classroom)