

University of Rhode Island  
Department of Mathematics

Course and Section number: MTH 108 Section 0001  
Course Title: Topics in Mathematics  
Semester and Year: Spring 2019  
Class Day(s)/Time: MWF 12:00 - 12:50 pm  
Class Location: Swan Hall room 203

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Instructor: Catherine Robinson  
Office Location: Chafee 254  
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Office Hours: M&W 8:00 - 9:00 or by appointment

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**Course Description:** LEC: (3 crs.) Introduces students to the spirit of mathematics and its applications. Emphasis is on development of reasoning ability as well as manipulative techniques. Not open to students with credit in MTH 106 or MTH 109 and not for major credit in mathematics. (MQ)

**Prerequisite(s):** None.

**General Education Area(s) and Outcome(s):** MQ. This course fully satisfies both the general education Knowledge area A1: Scientific, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematical Disciplines (STEM) and Competency area B3: Mathematical, Statistical, or Computational Strategies (MSC).

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Required Textbook(s):** *For All Practical Purposes: Mathematical Literacy in Today's World* 10th edition by COMAP

**Course Goals:**

The goal of this course is to prepare you for the mathematical and analytical aspects of the world around you, and to help you develop a stronger, deeper mathematical knowledge. This course is intended for students majoring in the liberal arts or other fields that do not have a specific mathematical requirement.

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. construct, analyze, and interpret various graphs, tables, circuits, diagrams, or other visual representations of data;
2. determine appropriate formulas based on a problems context and use them to perform calculations related to valence, probability, finance, sequences and patterns, or other applications;

3. use appropriate definitions and terminology related to all topics covered to discuss problems in detail and to explain problem-solving methods both in writing and orally;
4. apply concepts learned to situations outside the classroom including but not limited to efficiency, probability and chance outcomes, personal finance, and identifying patterns.

**Grade Distribution:**

10% Participation	Group activities, online assignments, projects, or discussions.
50% Homework & Chapter Assignments	Homework will be collected at the end of chapter coverage. Each chapter there will be assignments enhance the understanding.
40% Quizzes and Projects	A quiz or comprehensive project that covers all of the important topics.

**Letter Grade Distribution:**

94.00 - 100.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 93.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	60.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	0.0 - 59.99	F
77.00 - 79.99	C+		

**Instructor Policies for the Course:**

- **Attendance**

Attendance is a vital and necessary part of this course. While there is no formal attendance policy, we cover a lot of information at a rapid pace; missing a class will result in a large amount of material missed. Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee’s responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

- **Expectations**

- You are expected to attend every lecture, and to submit your work on time. Late homework is not accepted.
- It is your responsibility to communicate clearly in writing up solutions for homework, projects, and quizzes. Your results must display your understanding well and be written in a correct, complete, coherent, and well organized fashion. The rules of language still apply in mathematics, and they apply even when symbols are used in formulas, equations, etc.
- The rapid pace of the class requires that you spend time every day doing homework, reviewing notes, reading the textbook, and working out extra problems, all in addition to the time spent in class.

- **Makeup Policy**

Makeup quizzes may be scheduled in the event you are unable to attend quizzes under the following conditions. In particular, if you must miss the quiz because of a scheduling conflict, you must notify your instructor before, not after, the quiz, and emergencies require you to contact your instructor within 24 hours. See University Manual sections 8.51.10 and 8.51.14 for guidelines.

- If your reason for missing the quiz as scheduled is (i) a University sanctioned event for which verifiable documentation can be provided (including another scheduled class), (ii) a responsibility to an employer that cannot be rescheduled (with documentation from your

employer), or (iii) Religious holidays, then you MUST INFORM YOUR INSTRUCTOR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE QUIZ AND PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION IF REQUESTED. Makeup quizzes will be scheduled after the actual quiz, and preferably before the class period when quizzes are to be handed back, but no later than one week after the original date.

- If the reason for missing the quiz as scheduled is due to (i) illness (with verifiable documentation from a medical provider), or (ii) an emergency (with appropriate documentation), then you MUST INFORM YOUR INSTRUCTOR WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE QUIZ and provide documentation upon your return. Failure to notify your instructor within 24 hours will result in a 0 for the quiz. No exceptions. Makeup quizzes may be scheduled no later than a week after the original date, unless the illness or emergency precludes this, in which case the makeup quiz will be given on a common date during the last two weeks of the semester.

Students that miss course work (not quizzes) under the same the conditions mentioned above will be given the opportunity to make up the course work.

- **Electronic Devices**

Cell phones, ipads, ipods, etc. should be turned off during class. Excepted from this are electronic pads used for notetaking. Your instructor may tell you about other exceptions. “texting” is not allowed.

- **Other Policies:**

- Please come to class prepared by reading over the text to be covered and by bringing your book, notebook and pencil. Pencils only please.
- You are here to learn, so please give class your full attention, ask questions if you do not understand and be respectful and courteous to your fellow students and professor.
- There is no extra credit in this course. Please don’t ask.

### **Academic Honesty Policy:**

Cheating is defined in the University Manual section 8.27.10 as the claiming of credit for work not done independently without giving credit for aid received, or any unauthorized communication during examinations. Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. The resolution of any charge of cheating or plagiarism will follow the guideline set forth in the University Manual 8.27.10-8.27.21, <http://web.uri.edu/manual/chapter-8/chapter-8-2/>.

### **Special Needs:**

Any student with a documented disability should contact your instructor early in the semester so that he or she may work out reasonable accommodations with you to support your success in this course. Students should also contact Disability Services for Students: Office of Student Life, 330 Memorial Union, 874-2098. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

### **Academic Enhancement Center (AEC):**

In addition to your instructor’s office hours, there is help available from the Academic Enhancement Center (AEC). The AEC offers three types of help: Supplemental Instruction (SI), Tutoring (both walk-in and appointment-based types), and academic coaching. For more information on AEC services, study tips, and SI session, visit the AEC website at <http://web.uri.edu/aec/>.

**Incomplete Grade:**

University of Rhode Island regulations concerning incomplete grades will be followed. See University Manual sections 8.53.20 and 8.53.21 for details.

**Religious holidays:**

It is the policy of the University of Rhode Island to accord students, on an individual basis, the opportunity to observe their traditional religious holidays. Students desiring to observe a holiday of special importance must provide written notification to each instructor.

**Standards of behavior:**

Students are responsible for being familiar with and adhering to the published “Community Standards of Behavior: University Policies and Regulations” which can be accessed in the University Student Handbook ([web.uri.edu/studentconduct/university-student-handbook/](http://web.uri.edu/studentconduct/university-student-handbook/)). If you must come in late, please do not disrupt the class. Please turn off all cell phones or any electronic devices.