Course Syllabus
MTH/CSC 447: Discrete Mathematical Structures, Fall 2017

Instructor: Bill Kinnersley

Office: Lippitt 101B
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Course Website: This course will use Sakai. The Sakai site will contain lecture notes, homework assignments, and administrative announcements. Check it often!

Course Content: Concepts and techniques in discrete mathematics. Proofs and mathematical induction, techniques of counting, recurrence relations, graphs.

Classroom Conduct: The classroom is a place for learning. While you are in class, I expect you to remain focused on the course material, and also to maintain an environment in which other students can do the same. In particular:

- Laptops and tablets can be useful for taking notes or for annotating electronic copies of the provided lecture notes. However, they can also be major distractions. Don't screw around on the internet during class! This is distracting not only to you, but also to other students sitting nearby. Use of laptops or tablets for any purpose other than note-taking will not be permitted.
- Cell phones should be muted and stored away at all times during class. Ringing phones are disruptive. Texting during class is flat-out disrespectful.
- All in-class discussion must pertain to the course material. Asking your neighbor about the roots to the characteristic equation of a linear recurrence relation is fine; asking them about Friday night's frat party is not. Off-topic chatter can be distracting to other students.

Textbook: The textbook for this course is *Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications*, by Kenneth H. Rosen. *It is not required.* However, you may find it useful as a reference, a supplement to the provided lecture notes, and a source of practice problems. The most recent edition is very expensive, but earlier editions are much cheaper and should still suffice for this course.

Evaluation: The course grade will be based on weekly quizzes, two midterm exams, and a final exam, weighted as follows:

- Quizzes: 30%
- Midterm exams: 20% each (40% total)
- Final exam: 30%

Scores will be posted in the Sakai gradebook.

The scale for letter grades will be:

A: 93.00% and above		A-: 90.00% - 92.99%
B+: 87.00% - 89.99%	B: 83.00% - 86.99%	B-: 80.00% - 82.99%
C+: 77.00% - 79.99%	C: 73.00% - 76.99%	C-: 70.00% - 72.99%
D+: 67.00% - 69.99%	D: 60.00% - 66.99%	
F: 59.99% and below		

These cutoffs might be lowered slightly if deemed appropriate, but they will *not* be raised.

Homework: Homework will be assigned on most Thursdays (on Sakai) and will be collected on the following Thursday *at the beginning of class*. On each assignment, I will choose three or four questions to grade in detail; these will account for about half of the total credit on the assignment. The remaining questions will be checked for completion, but not for correctness. This means that you're guaranteed at least half of the homework points just for putting in the effort to complete the assignment.

As this is an upper-level mathematics course, it is imperative that your homework solutions be clear, logically sound, and mathematically precise. Being able to communicate your ideas clearly and effectively is an important (and often overlooked) aspect of mathematics!

You are welcome to work on the homework together with your fellow students, but you *must* write up your own solutions *in your own words*. Copying from another student's homework solutions will be considered plagiarism and will be dealt with *very harshly*.

Late Homework: Homework assignments will be accepted up to 48 hours late, at a penalty of 10 percentage points for each day late. This penalty may be waived under extenuating circumstances (at the instructor's discretion).

Midterm Exams: There will be two midterm exams, held in class on October 5 and November 9 (both of which are Thursdays).

Final Exam: The final exam will be held in the regular classroom on Thursday, December 14, from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. It will be cumulative.

Calculator Policy: No calculators! You may not use calculators on any of the exams, nor should you need to. (I will try to be very forgiving of any arithmetic mistakes.)

Regrading Policy: If you have any questions or concerns about the grading of an assignment, please contact me within one week of the day the assignment was returned to the class, and I'll take another look at it.

Absence Policy: If you miss any exam due to illness or emergency, you must contact me – in person, by phone, or through email – *within 24 hours*. Under most circumstances, absences must be documented.

If you know that you will need to miss an exam due to religious observances or University-sanctioned events, you must contact me at least *one week* in advance.

Academic Accommodations: If you require academic accommodations and have documentation from Disability Services (874-2098), please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity: Cheating is prohibited in all aspects of the course. Cheating includes but is not limited to: copying from another student's homework solutions, communication with other students during an exam, reading another student's written work during an exam, and use of any electronic device (including calculators) during an exam. I take cheating very seriously; *any* cheating will result in severe consequences.

Other Comments: Please feel free to talk to me if you have any questions about the material. I'm here to help! Make use of my office hours. If you can't make it to my office hours, let me know and we can set up some other time to meet. Please also feel free to email me with questions (though this works best for short and simple questions; complex questions are usually better discussed in person).