



and the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL)), we will also consider the role of standardized testing and "skill development" in the contemporary mathematics classroom.

**Expectations of Students:** Within the context of the philosophy above, it is critical that each of you play an active role in class. It is expected that you regularly attend class, are on time, are prepared, complete the assignments, participate actively in class, and make every effort necessary for this to be a positive learning experience. A complete semester schedule will be distributed so you are aware of what material you need to study, prepare, and work on. I will, with your help, do everything I can to provide a supportive learning environment, but learning is your responsibility. I expect you to take this responsibility seriously.

**Course Assignments and Exams:** Routine homework exercises from our text will be assigned most class periods. It is your responsibility to complete each of these problems. Additionally, for each exercise assigned one student will have to write up a solution for a solution manual we will build.

Homework assignments of varying types, lengths, and levels of difficulty, will be assigned at least once a week. The assignments will include problem solving exercises; at home "investigations"; written reviews of journal articles, books, and Internet sites; as well as more standard exercises that will move beyond the level of those in our text.

There will be two exams. The first exam will be an in class exam and is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 25 October. The second exam will be a pyramid exam. As the first part of this pyramid exam you will complete the exam in class on Thursday, 13 December. You will then complete the exam again outside of class, submitting your solutions during our regularly scheduled final exam period, Thursday, 20 December from 12:20—2:20 p.m. Both of these exams will be open note and open book.

There will be one poster project. Due dates will vary by student and will be fixed during the first two weeks of the course.

There will be one project. The project will be due Thursday, 6 December.

You are responsible for creating a Mathematics Portfolio that documents your experience in this course. It must include journal entries, all corrected homework assignments and revisions, the glossary we develop, topic synopses, your exams, your project, and all course materials that are distributed throughout the semester.

**Grading:** Given their frequency, I will not be able to thoroughly grade every homework assignment. Some assignments will be checked for completion at the beginning of class. Other assignments will simply be graded on completeness and effort. The remaining assignments will be carefully and critically graded in a variety of categories, including: mathematical content, mathematical correctness, creativity, presentation, demonstrated effort, depth, and appropriateness. All comments are meant to be constructive and should be interpreted accordingly.

All formal assignments that you submit to me must be your own unless other arrangements are made. We will work actively in groups, and it will often be helpful for you to work with others on assignments. However, the final submissions must be completed individually and must contain your own work. Failure to heed this warning will be considered violation of the college's policies on academic honesty and will be treated accordingly.

**Grades:** Homework assignments, journals, portfolios and projects will receive letter grades on a standard four point scale (A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, etc.) Your letter grades will inform you of your success as the course progresses. It is assumed that you will complete every assignment in this course. Missing or unacceptable assignments will negatively effect your grade, receiving point scores of -1.5. As noted above, absenteeism will adversely affect your grade in this course. The required elements in this course will contribute the following weights to your course grade point average (GPA):

- ∞ Homework Assignments - 24%
- ∞ Routine Exercises - 8%
- ∞ Journals, Glossary, and Portfolio - 10%
- ∞ Exams - 12% each
- ∞ Poster - 12%
- ∞ Project - 12%
- ∞ Class Participation and Attendance - 10%

**Final Grades:** Final grades will be determined by applying the following scale to your course GPA:

A	3.8 – 4.0	C	2.30 – 2.599
A-	3.6 – 3.799	C-	2.0 – 2.299
B+	3.334 – 3.599	D+	1.75 – 1.999
B	3.10 - 3.333	D	1.5 – 1.7499
B-	2.85 – 3.099	F	Below 1.5
C+	2.60 – 2.849		

You should note that this scale corresponds at the lower end to our college's policies on academic standing. (See AY07-08 Bulletin p. 33.) I reserve the right to adjust this scale at my discretion. However, any adjustment will not affect any grade by more than 0.333 on a 4-point scale.

You should discuss any questions or concerns about grades with your teacher as they arise.