Instructor: Jonathan Cox
Office: AIRW 330 (Hemphill Airway and Computer Science Building)
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Office hours*: 2-3 MW; 9-12 TuTh; 9-11 F
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Web Page: http://www.ulm.edu/~jcox/118/

*While these are the official office hours, I am available at other times as well. If you want to meet at a time outside of office hours, the best option is to set up an appointment with me. You can also just drop by any time, but you may want to call first to see if I’m there.


Other materials. Calculator, five different colored pens or pencils, ruler, some coins, scissors.

Prerequisites. A grade of “C” or better in MATH 110, 111, 113, or 114, or consent of the instructor.

Catalog Description. Selected topics from logic, set theory, number theory, graph theory, combinatorics, and geometry. Intended for liberal arts degree programs.

Course objectives. The purposes of this course for the student include (1) Improving reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, (2) Sampling some of the many application areas of discrete mathematics, (3) Acquiring an appreciation of the advances made in mathematics throughout history and their impact on many areas of life, and (4) Having fun doing math!
In a nutshell, I hope you will realize that mathematics is useful in and relevant to society today.

Content and Methodology. The course will cover between six and eight chapters from the text as time permits. In general we will cover each chapter in about two weeks. The beginning of each class period will be reserved for discussion of the homework and other questions. Up to 1/3 of the period may be used for this purpose. The remaining time will be split between lecture and other activities including group work and board work. Students are encouraged to ask questions and make relevant comments anytime during class.

Homework. Homework will be assigned, collected, and graded regularly. Only selected problems will be graded. As a normal practice, I will make corrections as necessary on such problems, but not deduct points unless you either don’t do the problem or appear to have no idea what you are doing. Problems checked in this manner will typically be worth one to two points. In this scenario, the homework grade is essentially a completion grade. However, I reserve the right to grade some problems in full detail, in which case I would take off points even for minor mistakes. The average value of such problems is about 5 points, but a problem could be worth as much as 20 points. I intend to grade problems in full detail only if cheating or other class difficulties warrant so doing.

In addition, projects and other special assignments may be collected and graded. Due dates will be specified, and no late work will receive full credit, except when required by university
regulations on absences. (See the Attendance Policy section below.) I define work to be late if it is handed in after the beginning of the class period following the due date. Late work can still be handed in and graded, but will receive credit for only 50% of the points earned. No late work may be handed in after the last day of class or more than one month after the original due date. All of your work for a given assignment must be handed in at the same time. Be sure to clearly write your name on your homework, or you may not receive credit for it. Staple multiple pages together. Unstapled multiple-page submissions will not be graded. Write neatly—illegible work will not receive credit. See the section “Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct” below for vital information about completing the homework.

Do the homework! How well you do in the class is directly related to how much homework you do. If you don’t do the homework, you probably won’t pass. It is also to your advantage to ask questions about homework problems that give you difficulty. It may be helpful to read the chapters in the textbook as well.

Exams. The purpose of the exams is to determine your level of mastery of the concepts of the course. They will test not only your ability to memorize, but also your ability to think. There will be five or six 45-minute in-class exams, one at the end of each chapter covered, and a 110-minute final examination. Half of the final examination will involve the last chapter covered, and the other half will be quasi-comprehensive: It will include selected material from each chapter. Examinations will be given every two to three weeks. The final examination for this course will be given from 1:00pm to 2:50 pm on Thursday, December 8 in the room in which we normally meet. Normal make-up exams will be given only in serious and unavoidable circumstances (or in other situations sanctioned by the University) and only if your request to make up an exam is approved by the instructor within 72 hours of the in-class exam. Make-up exams must be taken within two class periods following the day of the exam. If these conditions are not satisfied, it is understood that the opportunity to make up the examination at that time is voided. In this case, exams may still be made up during the special make-up exam period during finals week. The special make-up exam period is 8:00am–9:50am on Thursday, December 8. Students wishing to make use of this option must notify the instructor in writing during the last week of classes (Nov. 28–Dec. 2).

Quizzes. Since the exams are so close together, we will have few quizzes if any. Still, there may be occasional announced or unannounced quizzes given during class time, which would cover assigned homework and the lecture material. QUIZZES MAY NOT BE MADE UP, except when university regulations dictate otherwise. (See the Attendance Policy section below.) Missed quizzes will result in a grade of zero.

Grading and Evaluation. Performance in this course will be evaluated on a percentage system. Each of the 45-minute exams are worth 100 points, the final exam is worth 200 points, and each homework assignment will fall approximately in the 10 to 20 point range. Homework will probably constitute around 15% of the final grade, and certainly will be worth less than 20%. To obtain your percentage at any time during the course, divide the number of points you have earned by the total number of points available and multiply by 100. I will also update these totals and have them available for your reference at various times during the semester. Letter grades will be assigned as follows based on a student’s final percentage:


The instructor reserves the right to lower the grade ranges. The grade ranges will not be raised.
**Attendance Policy.** We will follow the attendance policy of the University. (See pp. 57-58 of the 2004-5 ULM catalog.) Attendance is not officially a part of the grade. However, you probably won’t be able to pass the course if you do not attend regularly. This is a fast-paced course; we will cover a chapter about every four meetings. If you miss class even once, you will likely have difficulty understanding the chapter being studied. If you must be absent, please notify the instructor ahead of time. An attendance sheet will be passed around each time the class meets. **It is your responsibility to sign this sheet** each period in order for your attendance to be official.

The university policy defines excused absences. In a nutshell, you have a university excuse if you are participating in an official university function, hospitalized, at a doctor’s appointment, or attending the funeral of a close relative. In these cases alone, missed work can be made up with full credit possible. The appropriate documentation must be provided to the instructor within three days of returning to classes.

For this course, the University considers three unexcused absences to be excessive. If a student accumulates excessive absences, the instructor may choose to recommend to the dean that the student lose the right to continue in the course while receiving a grade of “F.”

**Special Accommodations.** “Any student with a physical disability or learning disability who needs accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with special needs are encouraged to contact the Counseling Center at 342-5220.” (p. 65, ULM Catalog 2004–2005).

**Withdrawal Policy.** The drop policy for this course will be that of the University. (See the ULM Catalog.) **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW AND COMPLY WITH ALL DEADLINES.** The last day to drop this course or resign from the university with an automatic grade of “W” is **Tuesday, November 1.**

**Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct.** The University has explicit rules governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. The policies are detailed in the ULM Catalog under the “Academic Cheating and Plagiarism” section (pp. 76–78). The university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment of a grade of zero on the examination, quiz, or homework assignment.

In addition to the individual penalties, if I even suspect anyone of cheating, there will be consequences for the entire class. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, (1) More detailed grading of the homework, (2) Harder and longer examinations, and (3) Loss of extra credit opportunities. Do not inflict these things on your classmates. **Do not cheat.**

I encourage you to work together on homework and in learning the material. While working with another person or in study groups is permitted, **all written work submitted must be your own.** Copying someone else’s problem solution or showing your written solution to someone else is prohibited, and will result in penalties as described above. In order to be successful in learning the material and preparing for the examinations, you need to try to work out the homework problems yourself as much as possible before discussing them with anyone else.

**Daily Schedule.** See http://www.ulm.edu/~jcox/118/sch.pdf for a tentative daily schedule for this course.

**Any changes to this syllabus will be communicated in class by the instructor.**