

Welcome to the online section of Math 1320!

The course outline and calendar are contained in Moodle, but we will use WebAssign for all assignments and exams in this course. You should have already received an email from WebAssign telling you what your username and password are (contact the instructor if you haven't).

Useful things to know:

- 1) **Use your UTEP-assigned email address.** This is very important as this email address is the only one your instructor has on file, so if you do not check it regularly you may miss important announcements.
- 2) **One of the first things you should do on Moodle is to link it to WebAssign.** You can do this by clicking the link that says “WebAssign – Math 1320” under the Communication Forum.
- 3) **There is a two week grace period in WebAssign where you do not have to purchase anything.** You can access the entire e-book, as well as any upcoming assignments. After the two week grace period ends, you have to purchase access as described on the syllabus.
- 4) **The first assignment you should complete is called Entering Math Answers in Enhanced WebAssign.** In fact, you won't be able to access any other assignments until you score 100% on this one (it is very easy, it's just showing you how to enter things into WebAssign).
- 5) Once you complete that first assignment, I strongly suggest that you follow this order on all sections: first complete the Assigned Reading, then the Practice assignment, and lastly do the Homework assignment. The first two count for a small part of your overall grade (3% and 4% respectively), and the homework is worth the most (15%). The first two assignment types are there to help you get ready for the Homework assignment.
- 6) **The Personal Study Plan counts towards your final grade.** It's only worth 2% of your final grade, but every bit helps. You can access it by clicking the tab called Personal Study Plan. The chapter quizzes are what counts, the section quizzes are only for practice.
- 7) **Try to keep up with the calendar on the syllabus.** We cover four or five sections per week. Each section consists of the three assignments I mention earlier (Assigned Readings, Practice, and Homework). There are no extensions on Exams without a documented reason, so you need to keep up on the work so that you'll be ready for the exams when they come.
- 8) **You can get help on any problem.** There are many study aids available for each question. Look for links like “Read It,” “Watch It,” and “Ask My Teacher.” There is also

a Frequently Asked Questions link in the Forums on WebAssign, so please check that first to see if your question can be answered there before clicking Ask My Teacher.

- 9) **This course moves very fast.** Since it is a 7-week course, we will move approximately twice as fast as if it were a normal semester. Consequently, **you will need to spend at least 20 hours per week** working on the assignments if you wish to succeed.
- 10) **You can get extensions on all assignments except exams.** For Assigned Readings and Practice assignments, you can get the extensions automatically with no penalty. Once the assignment due date has passed, click on Past Assignments and then click on Ask for Extension. You can do this up to a week after the due date, and once you ask for the extension you get an extra 3 days to finish the assignment. **For Homework assignments, you get up to 6 free extensions per semester.** After the sixth extension on Homework, you will start to lose progressively more credit on each extension. For the 7th, you lose 5%, the 8th is 10%, etc., for a maximum of 20% on each extension after the 9th one (so the 10th, 11th, etc. will all lose 20% credit). The best thing to do is to get your work done on time. If you rely too much on taking extensions, you will get too far behind and not be prepared for the exams when then come. Note that **there are no extensions on exams without a valid, documented excuse** that details why you could not take the exam during the all of the days it was available. **Technical problems are not a valid excuse for missing an exam** unless it affects the entire class. The reason for this is that it is impossible for me to verify that any particular student has had a technical problem, so without this rule, anyone and everyone can simply claim technical problems and get any exam extended. Therefore, I strongly suggest that you not wait until the last minute to take an exam so that if any technical problems do arise, you have enough time to deal with them.

I hope this will help you get started in the course. You should be able to start working on the WebAssign work beginning on Monday, 8/31. Please log in as soon as possible and get started on the course - anyone who has not registered for WebAssign after the first week of class has passed will be dropped from the course. I will be monitoring who has not registered after the first few days and sending reminder emails.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and good luck in the course!

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