

Math 2300 (3 credits)  
MWF 11:30–12:20  
LART 211

**DISCRETE MATH**  
**Syllabus – TENTATIVE**

Fall 2010

Instructor: **Dr. Art Duval**

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<http://www.math.utep.edu/Faculty/duval/home.html>

**Office hours: To Be Announced.** Please feel free to come by my office any time during scheduled office hours. You are welcome to come at other times, but in that case you might want to make an appointment, just to make sure that I will be there then. You can make an appointment simply by talking to me before or after class, by calling me at my office or at home, or by sending e-mail.

You may also ask any questions directly via phone or e-mail. If I'm not in when you call, please leave a message on the voice-mail or answering machine with your name, number, and a good time for me to call you back. I will try to repond to your phone or e-mail message as soon as possible.

**Website:** <http://www.math.utep.edu/Faculty/duval/class/2300/104/home.html>

Once the semester begins, here you will find this syllabus with relevant links, including homework and reading assignments for the whole semester, as they are announced. Other resources may become available.

**Prerequisites:** Calculus I (Math 1411). This is entirely a mathematical maturity requirement, as we will use no calculus in this course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of the course, you will know and be able to use the basic algebra of sets and of logic. You will be able to identify and use common classes of relations. You will know basic properties of arbitrary functions. You will be able to solve counting problems involving combinations and permutations, including counting problems with restrictions. You will know the basic definitions and theorems of graph theory, and be able to apply them to specific graphs. You will know the basic algorithms for traversing trees, and be able to apply them to specific trees.

Note that this class will probably be quite different from other math classes you have taken, in at least two important ways. First, in contrast to calculus and related courses, the objects under consideration are (as the course title suggests) discrete, not continuous. This has the advantage that you can often explicitly list all the pieces (try listing all the function values of a continuous function!), but the disadvantage of not having continuity to “tie” things together nicely. Second, although there is still a lot of problem-solving, the problems and their answers have a very different flavor: the problems are not equations to be solved, and the answers often aren't even numbers. We also may spend more time explaining why a particular solution works than in finding the solution.

**Textbook:** **Discrete Mathematics, 5th ed., Dossey, et. al., Chs. 2, 4, 5, 8, Appendix A.** We will skip some sections, as announced in class. The textbook is required at all class meetings.

**Required Reading:** Read each section that we cover in class, both before and after class. Skim the section before class, even if you don't understand it fully, to have some idea of what we'll be doing in class. Read it more carefully after class to clarify and fill in details you missed in class.

**Warning:** Sometimes, we will not “cover” all the material from a section in class, but instead focus on a particular aspect of the section. In such cases, I will point out in class (and on the course’s website) which other parts of the section I expect you to read on your own.

## GRADES:

**Quizzes (15%)** Suggested homework problems will be assigned most class days and will generally be discussed at the next class. There will be approximately weekly quizzes, with problems taken from the homework. Quizzes are closed-book, closed-notes. Missed quizzes **cannot** be made up, but your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

It is very important that you do your homework before it is discussed in class. You will only learn the material by doing it yourself, not by watching others do it for you.

**Projects (10%)** There will be 3–4 projects throughout the semester, where you consider slightly more in-depth problems, and write up their solutions more carefully. As part of a pilot project, all the projects will be drawn from real applications in biology (though you will not need to know any biology in order to complete them), where math and computer science are playing an increasing role.

**Exams (15% each)** There will be three in-class exams on dates to be announced.

Makeup exams can be given only in extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances, and with advance notice. (See also “Exception” below.)

**Final (30%)** comprehensive (including Appendix A)

The final will be on

Wed. 8 Dec., 1:00–3:45 p.m.

**Exception** Your final exam score will be used in place of your lowest in-class exam score, if this increases your overall class average. In particular, if you miss an exam, your final exam score will replace it.

## POLICIES:

**Academic dishonesty:** It is UTEP’s policy, and mine, for all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty to be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. See Section 1.3.1 of the Handbook for Operating Procedures.

**Attendance:** I strongly encourage you to attend every class, though there is no particular grade penalty for absences. My goal is for class meetings and activities to complement, rather than echo, the textbook, and thus for every class to be worth attending.

**Drop date:** The deadline for student-initiated drops with a W is Friday, October 29. After this date, you can only drop with the Dean’s approval, which is granted only under extenuating circumstances.

I hope everyone will complete the course successfully, but if you are having doubts about your progress, I will be happy to discuss your standing in the course to help you decide whether or not to drop. You are only allowed three enrollments in this course, and students enrolled after Fall 2007 are only allowed six withdrawals in their entire academic career, so please exercise the drop option judiciously.

**Courtesy:** We all have to show courtesy to each other, and the class as a whole, during class time. Please arrive to class on time (or let me know when you have to be late, and why); do not engage in side conversations when one person (me, or another student) is talking to the whole class; turn off your cell phone (or at least set it to not ring out loud), and do not engage in phone, email, or text conversations during class.

**Disabilities:** If you have, or suspect you have, a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148, [dss@utep.edu](mailto:dss@utep.edu), or Union East room 106. You are responsible for presenting to me any DSS accommodation letters and instructions.

**Exceptional circumstances:** If you anticipate the possibility of missing large portions of class time, due to exceptional circumstances such as military service and/or training, or childbirth, please let me know as soon as possible.