FINITE MATH. (MAIO3)

Winter 2003, Dr. SUJAY DATTA
Dept. of Math. & Compo Sci., NMU
SYLLABUS, RULES & REGULATIONS

- **Meeting time**: 9:00-9:50 A.M. (M. W. Th. F.)

- **Textbook**: *'Finite Mathematics'* (Berresford and Rockett), Houghton Mifflin

- **Syllabus**: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 (only up to Section 4.2), 5 and 6 (only up to Section 6.3). If time permits, we may discuss a little bit about Section 4.3 and 6.4. We will start with Chapters 1, move to chapters 3 and 4, and then come back to Chapter 2 and finish the course with Chapters 5 and 6.

- **Instructor's whereabouts**: Office in Seaborg Science Complex (Room # 1107), phone # 227-1584

- **Office hours**: (M. W. Th. F). 8:30-9:00 A.M. and 12:00-12:30 P.M. & (T) 8:30-11:00 A.M., and 12:00-5:00 P.M.

- **Tools required**: A T .I.-series graphing calculator is recommended. If you have any other kind, it is your responsibility to read and learn from the manual. However, you can also use the TI-Interactive software (on your IBM ThinkPad) to avoid buying a new calculator. Questions regarding how to use these tools will, in general, not be addressed in the class, but you are free to discuss them as many times as you want outside the class (e.g., during the office hours)

- **Prerequisite**: A "C-" or better in MAI00, or recommendation by the placement test

- **Evaluation & grading**: (a) There will be 4 classtests (1 every month) and several short quizzes. At the end of every day's lecture, a few homework problems will be given and at the end of the week, these homework problems will be discussed in the class. Sometimes, if necessary, the homework problems will be discussed the very next day. Homeworks will only be collected and graded once every month, but it is strongly recommended that you do all of them for your own benefit. At the end of the semester there will be a final. The classtests will be worth 35 % of your final composite score, the quizzes will be worth 25 %, the graded homeworks will be worth 10 % and the final will be worth 20 %.

  (b) The lowest classtest score, the lowest quiz score and the lowest homework grade will be dropped. No classtest, quiz or homework will be individually curved. However, there will be a curve at the end of the semester. The final is a 'must'.

  (c) The remaining 10% of your final composite score will be reserved for class participation (i.e. solving problems on the board in the class, answering questions thrown at you during the lecture, etc.) and attendance (i.e. how regularly you are coming to the lectures). Records of these will be kept for each of you individually.

- **Grade ranges**: A final composite score of 90 % or above is an 'A', at least 85 % and less than 90 % is an 'A-', at least 80 % and less than 85 % is a 'B+', at least 75 % and less than 80 % is a 'B', at least 70 % and less than 75 % is a 'B-', 65 % - < 70 % is a 'C+', 60 % - < 65 % is a 'C', and so on.

- **Instant failure**: There are certain things which will instantly bring you an 'F' grade (no matter how well you do in the other categories). You will get an 'F' if (a) there are more than 7 days of unjustified absences over the semester (an 'unjustified absence' is one for which you show me no letter of excuse signed by a *verifiable authority with a contact phone number* - such as a doctor or a coach or a parent - on the first day you are back to class, or you show me no evidence - such as an automobile repair receipt if your car broke down. Simply an email or a letter from you or your room-mate will not do.), **or** (b) you fail to maintain at least a 'C' or 60 % in the category "class participation and attendance" all through the semester. (Here's how to compute your approximate grade in this category for yourself: divide the # days you have been in the class by the total # class-days until today, and convert it to a percentage by multiplying it with 100. Then divide the # times you have answered a question or solved a problem in the class *correctly* within the given time-limit by the *total* number of questions or problems you have been assigned, and convert it to a percentage. (Note: I am talking about questions that you are asked specifically by name, not the general questions thrown at the whole class). The average of these two percentages is your grade in this category. But you can come and ask me anytime what your grade is, if you are not sure).

- **What you should expect from this course**: (a) a good *working knowledge* in the topics covered and an adequate preparation for courses such as MA17l (you may *not* have enough time to become *experts*, but we'll try!) (b) a lot of problem solving in the class (mainly from the textbook, and occasionally from outside), (c) explanatory handouts and notes whenever necessary, (d) answers to all tests, quizzes and homework problems, (e) prompt grading of tests and quizzes (usually you will get the tests and quizzes back in 2 days' time), (f) plenty of help outside the class. Just see me during my office-hours or make appointments.

- **What you should NOT expect from this course:** (a) DON'T expect the tests and quizzes to be easy! They will be closed-book, will have questions from outside the book, will have questions not discussed in the class (just to encourage you to be innovative). In short, they will be *challenging* and sometimes *hard* - to really make you *think*. (b) DON'T expect that *everything* will be covered in the class. You will have to put in a lot of efforts at home to supplement what is done in the class. (c) DON'T expect the grading standard to be too easy or lenient. Usually I am a strict grader and don't give away A's easily. You'll have to earn your good grade! (But don't worry too much! I do give partial credits and second chances to improve upon low scores). (d) DON'T expect that we will *always* stick to the book. We will often go outside it and cover materials in a different order than it. (e) DON'T expect that "learning to use a TI-series calculator" is our main objective in this class. It is NOT! I'll often tell you how so solve problems on calculators, but you MUST also learn how to do them *by hand* using mathematical techniques (that's our primary goal!).

- **What I expect of you**: I hope you will (a) attend lectures regularly and keep yourself up-to-date, since it is *impossible* to catch up with the materials covered over a whole semester at the last moment, (b) ask a lot of questions in class whenever you have doubts (don't worry! No question is 'foolish'.), (c) not miss a lot of quizzes/classtests/homeworks (by the way, NO makeup quiz is allowed at any time, and only makeup classtests for "justified absences" are allowed), and (d) come to the class prepared, so you can participate in the class discussion.

- **You shouldn't be in this class if**: (a) you don't have the prerequisite or a recommendation from the math. placement test, (b) you think you won't be able to avoid the things (listed above) that entitles you to a straight 'F', (c) you think the items mentioned above under the headings "What you should expect from this course", "What you should not expect from this course" and "What I expect of you" are unacceptable to you. **Good Luck & Thanks!**

- **Disability-related services**: If you have a need for disability-related accommodations and services, please inform the *Coordinator for Disability Services* at 1104 University Center (phone 227-1737). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided if requests are made in a timely manner, with proper documentation and according to Federal, State and University rules.