

Grades: Grades are computed with the following breakdown. There is no set curve or grading cutoffs, but most likely the median grade will be around a B.

Effort and Attendance	5%
Homework and Worksheets	10%
Quizzes	15%
Your lowest midterm score	8%
Your other two midterms	16% each
Final exam	30%

Note that the lowest of your three midterms will be counted less in your final grade than the other two. This is to prevent a single bad exam from having an outsize impact on your grade.

Missed assignments: To compensate for illness and other emergencies, **your lowest three homework scores will be dropped**. If you cannot make a due date due to an emergency, you should simply skip the assignment, study and understand the problems to catch up when you have a chance, and focus on keeping up with the new material in the course. Therefore **late work will not be accepted for any reason**. I find that this is much better for students, as it prevents them from falling further behind.

Missed exams: if you are ill or an emergency arises near an exam, notify me as soon as possible. If you have a time conflict with an exam, notify me as soon as possible, and **at least one week in advance** (exam dates are listed above).

Accommodations: I strive to make this course welcoming to all students. If you would like to discuss your learning needs with me, please schedule a meeting so that we can work together to support your academic success. Anyone who may require an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me to make arrangements. I rely on Accessibility Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies, so you should contact them at accessibility@amherst.edu or 413-542-2337. If you require accommodations on exams, please arrange this with me at least one week in advance.

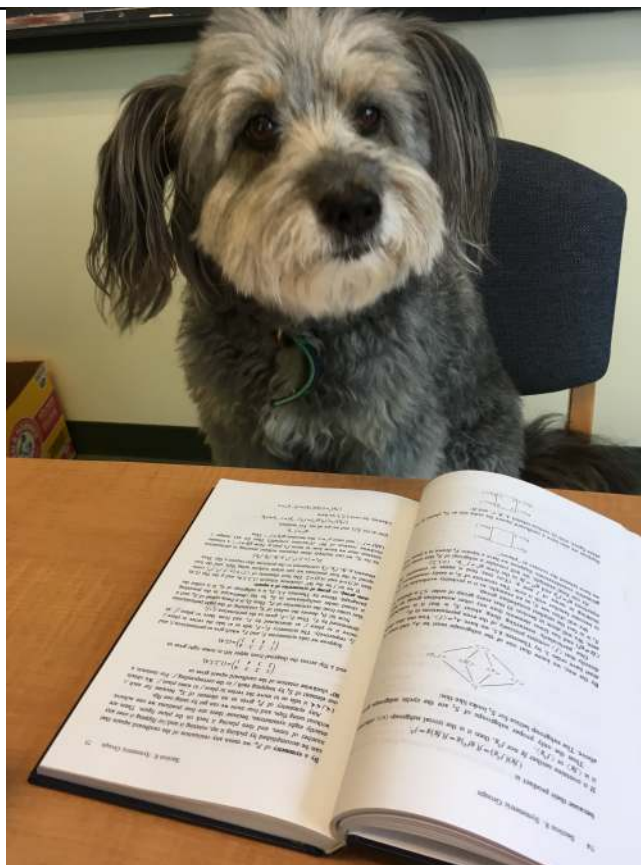
Intellectual responsibility:

- **Homework:** You are strongly encouraged to work with other students, ask many questions, and learn from as many people as possible. However, you must write up the solution yourself. **All your submitted work must be your work, written in your own words.** Copying solutions from other students, solutions manuals, or online databases is plagiarism; such copying will result in a 0 on the assignment and will be reported to Community Standards. You are also expected to **list each person you worked with** on the front of your homework assignment.
- **Exams:** You will be allowed **one page of notes (front and back)** for each exam. No calculators or other aids are permitted. Cell phones should be stowed out of sight during exams. Use of cell phones or other devices during the exams (except in emergencies) will be grounds to receive a 0 on the exam. You are bound by the college's honor code, and all work must be entirely your own on exams.

For both homework and exams, I reserve the right to give no credit for any work that appears suspicious.

Tips:

- **Come to office hours!** I am happy to answer your questions and also talk about the course in general. Even if you don't have specific questions, you can come to review material, listen to other students' questions, or just to chat. I will also often have **my dog, Charley** on hand (this will always be announced in advance), and you are always free to come exclusively to visit Charley.
- **Review early and often.** You should constantly be looking over your notes and keeping the big picture in mind. Arrive each day in class with a sense for where we are.
- **Keep a positive attitude.** Learning is a long process, and you will struggle often. Remember that struggle and difficulty is how you grow. Don't be afraid to talk to me about whatever difficulty you're facing. I want all of my students to be successful and deepen their mathematical skill and appreciation.
- **Practice, practice, practice.** Start early on homework, and let hard problems simmer in your head. Try unassigned problems in addition to homework. Read the book, and *read actively*, always questioning, summarizing, and interpreting what's on the page.



Resources and additional help: Be sure to take advantage of office hours, and your peers, to answer questions and think through the material. The staff at the **Moss Quantitative Center** in the New Science Center will host regular help hours, and are available for individual appointments. Our Math Fellow, Margaret Medina-Pena, will also hold regular help hours. The schedule of these help hours will be posted on the course website once they are set. Finally, some students may benefit from a peer tutor, if they are already using the available help hours and require additional support. Peer tutoring is a limited resource, so please speak with me about it before requesting tutoring.

email policy: The best way to reach me with course questions (besides office hours) is by email. I generally reply to email within 24 hours. However, **I often do not reply to email on weekends.** I will also reply less quickly on Thursdays, which is the day I devote primarily to research.