Course Information  
MATH135-02, Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. David A. Jackson

My office is in Ritter Hall 010. My office hours this semester will include from 1:10 until 3:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I expect that I will also be in my office at other times and often available to answer questions. My office telephone number is 977-3633. The URL for my webpage is: http://math.slu.edu/~jackson  See also http://mathcs.slu.edu/people/jacksoda

My e-mail address is: jacksoda@slu.edu


Prerequisite: The prerequisite for Discrete Mathematics is a grade of C- or better in MATH120.

Homework: I will be assigning both graded and ungraded homework. Some of the homework and exam questions will be of a computational nature while other homework and exam questions will require proofs and explanations. Much of the graded homework will be questions requiring proofs since those questions often need more feedback than the answers in the book can provide.

In very many cases, it is NOT a wise use of classtime to answer individual homework questions during classtime. Often, what the student asking the question REALLY needs is for me to LOOK at THEIR work and find the mistake. This is more quickly and efficiently done in my office. A second type of common individual question can often be phrased as “How do I start?” This question asked by an individual student is again best answered on an individual basis. (One obvious answer to this question is that the student should read the section again and think about which information in the section might be applicable to the question.) If a GROUP of students working together has this question, then the question and its answer almost always IS worthy of classtime. I WILL ALWAYS answer homework questions in class if the question is asked by a GROUP of students.

Quizzes: You should expect to frequently have a brief quiz at the beginning of the class period. I won’t give a quiz every class period, but you should be prepared for a quiz every class period. The three most important reasons for these quizzes are: 1) to insure that you prepare for class daily, 2) to motivate your prompt and faithful attendance, and 3) to provide you with feedback on your comprehension of the material. A typical quiz will cover the current homework assignment, the current reading assignment and material discussed in class since the last quiz. Doing the assigned reading and exercises and attending class is your best preparation for the quizzes. I do NOT give make-up quizzes for ANY reason, but see the paragraphs below on reports.

Group Work: For some of the graded homework, I will require you to work in groups. All of the students in the group are expected to contribute to the work on the project and all members of the group will receive the same grade. You are not required to stay in the same group for the entire semester, but you are not required to change groups either. One of the major reasons for requiring group work is that group work provides an opportunity for you to critique the (possibly faulty) proofs of your peers and to have your proofs critiqued by your peers. Communication and critical thinking are mathematical skills which are as important as computation. I strongly encourage you to develop these skills by working with a partner or a group on all ungraded homework.

Groups may earn bonus points for their group by finding typographical errors in the textbook. These typographical errors may be in either the sections assigned for reading or in unassigned portions of the textbook. Only errors in the 7th edition will count. I will only give one group credit for any typographical error.

Reports: On the first day of class, I will pass out the assignments for two optional reports. For those who do write one of these reports, I will use the score or scores to replace one (or more) of the lowest quiz scores. The first of these reports is a mathematical autobiography. It is due on Friday, January 27. The second is more competitive and is a critique of an assigned or unassigned homework problem. Those who write this second optional report must turn it in by Monday, May 7, the last day of class.
**Exams:** There will be two hour exams each of which will count 100 points. Tentative dates for these are marked on the following calendar. The final exam will last two hours and will cover the entire course. It will be worth 200 points. The time and date for your final exam is set by the registrar and is announced in the semester's schedule of classes. I have included this information at the bottom of the calendar. You should be careful that your travel arrangements at the end of the semester do not conflict with your final exams. In cases of illness and emergency, I do give make-up hour exams, but only to students who are doing passing work. Moreover, make-up exams are always harder than the original exams.

**Grading:** I will scale the points on graded homework and quizzes to a 100 point total. There will be two 100 point hour exams and a 200 point final exam for a total of 500 points for the course.

The grading scale for this course is a 90-80-70-60 grading scale. I do try to give the benefit of the doubt to students who show marked improvement during the semester, to students who do exceptionally well on the final exam and to students who are visibly working very hard to learn the material.

**Student Success Center:** The Student Success Center is at BSC 331, 977-8885. It provides support to students with learning disabilities and also to students with weak backgrounds, poor study skills or unusual learning styles. Students with disabilities will need to make prior arrangements through the University Disabilities Coordinator (Busch Student Center, room 331, 977-8885) if they have special needs for exams or lectures. The web site http://www.slu.edu/x24491.xml is one online starting point.

**Cheating:** Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any exam or quiz. I am authorized and encouraged to give an F for the entire course to anyone who is caught cheating. As a standard procedure, I will prepare a written report of any incident of cheating or suspected cheating. Copies of this report will be sent to the student, the student’s advisor, to all pertinent department chairpersons and college deans and to any appropriate committees formed to deal with academic misconduct. The deans or these committees may take further action, including possible dismissal from Saint Louis University and notations of reason on the student’s transcript. If you need further details about the responsibilities and the procedures for instructors, department chairs, deans and committees, you should read *Policy on Academic Honesty*, which is published by the College of Arts and Sciences. See http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml