

UAB Department of Mathematics  
**MA 110 (Finite Mathematics) Syllabus**

Semester: **Spring 2014**

Section: **MA110-ZN**

Instructor: Kyle Besing

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Instructor office hours in the MLL (202 Heritage Hall): Tuesday 9:00 – 10:00 am, Wednesday 12:05 - 1:05 pm, or by appointment

Instructor phone (Math department office): 934-2154

**Prerequisite:** Undergraduate level MA 096 Minimum Grade of C, or Undergraduate level MA 097 Minimum Grade of C, or Undergraduate level MA 098 Minimum Grade of C, or Undergraduate level MA 102 Minimum Grade of C, or ACT Math Score 20 and High School GPA 2, or ACT Math Score 21, or SAT Mathematics 480 and High School GPA 2, or SAT Mathematics 500, or 85% on the UAB MA 102/110 Placement Test.

**REQUIRED MEETINGS** (see the class schedule for details and exceptions):

**Class Meeting Time/Location: Monday 11:15 am – 12:05 pm, EB 145**

**Lab Meeting Time/Location: Wednesday 11:15 am – 12:05 pm, HHB 202**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Attendance at EVERY scheduled class meeting and lab meeting is **REQUIRED**.
- Students are expected to be ON TIME.
- Students are responsible for signing the roll and/or turning in their work during each meeting. ***Students who sign the roll for other students, sign the roll after arriving late, or sign the roll and leave early will be reported for academic misconduct.***
- There are 14 scheduled class meetings and 14 scheduled lab meetings.
- Students earn up to 15 points for each class meeting attended (must be on time, participate in group work, and turn in an individual paper).
- Students earn 5 points for each lab meeting attended (must be on time, stay the entire time, and work on course materials).
- **NO MAKE-UPS are allowed for missed classes or labs.**
- **No points can be earned if the student is absent, whether excused or unexcused.**
- If a student must be absent due to *official university business*, arrangements must be made IN ADVANCE of the absence.

**STUDENT EXPECTATION STATEMENT**

- The Course Syllabus and Schedule serve as a Contract by which the student must comply. An excuse of “not knowing” information covered in these documents is not an acceptable excuse for making mistakes in this class.
- All students are required to obtain and use the UAB email address that is automatically assigned to them as UAB students. All official correspondence will be sent ONLY to the @UAB.edu email address.
- Students are expected to maintain an active BlazerNet account.
- Students are expected to devote an average of 8 to 12 hours per week to this class.

- Students are expected to have a back-up plan in the event their computer has operational problems, there is loss of electricity, or there is loss of Internet access. These are not an excuse for late or incomplete submission of assignments, nor are they acceptable reasons for an assignment deadline extension. UAB's MLL, most public libraries, school libraries, university libraries, etc. have computers with Internet access and are available for use by the public.
- Students are expected to complete their online HW and Quizzes well in advance of deadlines. All HW and Quizzes are available at the beginning of the term until the deadline.
- Students in this class are expected to:
  - Speak and write Standard English.
  - Work cooperatively with others.
  - Possess independent reading and study skills at the university level.
  - Possess basic computer skills.
  - Possess the appropriate computer software and hardware necessary for successful participation in the class.

**Aims of the Course:** Upon successful completion of MA110, a student

- is able to compute using arithmetic and elementary algebra in a variety of problem situations;
- is able to identify the problem and translate verbal descriptions into mathematical form;
- is able to evaluate the reasonableness of quantitative assertions;
- is able to interpret and construct graphs, tables, and schematic representations of mathematical relationships;
- understands elementary probability, and is able to draw conclusions based upon probability;
- is able to select and use appropriately quantitative evidence and inferences;
- is able to communicate results of mathematical investigations in a manner appropriate to the audience;
- is persistent in attempting to solve mathematical problems.

**This course is more about developing quantitative reasoning ability than acquiring any specific set of mathematical skills** (algebra, arithmetic, etc.). The above learning outcomes are realized in the course in a variety of contexts, including consumer mathematics, voting theory, apportionment, counting, probability, and descriptive and inferential statistics.

**Course Description:** (3 semester hours). The first course hour is a meeting each week with the course instructor in a group work format. The second course hour is a meeting with the instructor in a supervised lab format. The third course hour is a self-study period in the Math Learning Lab working with Math Lab tutors and an online course instruction system. Topics covered in the course include: Percent, Consumer Mathematics, Voting and Apportionment, Counting and Probability, Statistics.

**Course Structure:** This course is primarily computer-based. An access code is REQUIRED to complete all Homework, Quizzes, and Tests for this course. All Homework and Quizzes are online and can be completed in the UAB MLL (Math Learning Lab) in 202 Heritage Hall or on your own computer *anytime BEFORE the deadline*. All Tests are also online, but they must be taken in the MLL according to your class schedule during your lab meeting time. **Students who work on HW and Quizzes outside of the lab are responsible for making sure their computer meets the technical requirements needed.**

In order to receive credit for HW and Quizzes, the work must be done ON or IN ADVANCE of course deadline dates. See the course schedule for the deadline dates. **NO make-ups or extension of deadlines are allowed for missed HW or Quiz deadlines.**

**Class Schedule:** A copy of the class schedule is handed out during the first meeting and is also posted in Blackboard. The class schedule identifies the specific dates and times of all class meetings, lab meetings, tests, and deadlines. It also identifies the chapters and sections of the text that correspond to the homework, quizzes, and tests.

**Class Meetings:** There are 14 class meetings. For each class meeting that you attend, you can earn **up to 15 Participation Points**. Class meeting format is **group work**. An individual written report on the group work is completed by each student prior to the end of class and turned in for evaluation. Rules and standards for group work, report evaluation, and awarding of participation points will be addressed at the first class meeting. **NO PARTICIPATION POINTS are awarded for LATE ARRIVALS or ABSENCES (excused or unexcused).**

**Lab Meetings:** There are 14 lab meetings. Each lab meeting is worth 5 points. Roll will be taken. You can only earn points for lab attendance if you are **ON TIME, work on course materials, and STAY for the entire meeting (until dismissed)**. **NO PARTICIPATION POINTS are awarded for LATE ARRIVALS or ABSENCES (excused or unexcused)**. Please note that all computer activity is monitored in the MLL.

**Materials:** All students are **required** to purchase the *Finite Mathematics Bundle*, which includes a *UAB Math 110 Text (softcover)* and MyMathLab Plus **ACCESS CODE**. Purchasing the bundle is usually the least expensive way to get the required materials, but they can also be purchased separately.

The UAB Math 110 Text is a customized text that only contains the chapters that are being covered in the course. The full textbook, *Thinking Mathematically, 5th edition*, by Robert Blitzer, published by Pearson Prentice-Hall, 2011 is optional. If students prefer a hardcover textbook, they may purchase this edition **instead of** the softcover UAB edition, but they must still purchase a MyMathLab Plus access code.

BE sure to PURCHASE only ONE TEXT and ONE MyMathLab Plus ACCESS CODE.

*If a student is retaking MA 110, he should contact the instructor about directions for reenrolling.*

**Calculator:** A basic or scientific calculator is recommended for use during class meetings. The computer calculator should be used in the lab. NO personal calculators are allowed during testing.

**Notebook:** Students should purchase a notebook to keep up with their work and course materials.

#### **Your MyMathLab Plus account:**

All Homework, Quizzes, and Tests for this course are available in MyMathLab Plus.

A MyMathLab Plus account has already been established for you and must be activated.

Log in to **BlazerNet** and click on the MyMathLab Plus link.

To gain access to your course assignments, you **must purchase a MyMathLab Plus ACCESS CODE**.

*Please note that there will be NO EXTENSIONS for missed homework, quiz, or test deadlines due to failure to purchase access to your online materials.*

If you have any questions regarding your MyMathLab Plus account, email your course instructor or stop by the Math Learning Lab in HHB202. Please note that there will be **NO EXTENSIONS for missed homework, quiz, or test deadlines due to failure to purchase access to your online materials.**

**Course Grades:** Students earn their grade in the course by accumulating points. There is a maximum of 1000 points available. Students can click on the UAB Grade for MA 110 link in MyMathLab Plus or go directly to <https://secure.cas.uab.edu/mlt/db/> to review the status of their grades in the course.

Note that **grades are awarded by TOTAL POINTS EARNED**, not by percentages.

Student letter grades are awarded as follows:

Grade Element	Points	Quantity	Total Points
Homework	5	14	70
Class Participation	15	14	210
Quizzes	5	14	70
Lab attendance	5	14	70
Tests	145	4	580
Total points			1000

Points Earned	Course Grade
880-1000	<b>A</b>
750-879	<b>B</b>
620-749	<b>C</b>
500-619	<b>D</b>
Below 500	<b>F</b>

**Homework:** There are 14 homework assignments. Each homework is worth 5 points. Homework may be completed at home\* or in the MLL any time before the deadline. An unlimited number of attempts can be made on each homework question. If a question is marked incorrect (x), click on *Similar Exercise* at the bottom and correctly answer a new question for full credit (before the deadline). **You can go in and out of the homework as many times as you like before the deadline (all of your work is automatically saved).** You earn points for homework completed ON or BEFORE the due date. After the due date, you can review homework assignments, but you cannot change your score. **Help features are available in the software for most homework problems** (see the links on the right side of the problem). The textbook and multimedia resources are also available.

**Quizzes:** There are 14 quizzes. Each quiz is worth 5 points. Quizzes may be completed at home\* or in the MLL any time before the deadline. Each quiz can be taken a maximum of two times, and the higher grade attained will count. Once you begin a quiz you have 30 minutes to complete it. You cannot exit the quiz or that will count as one of your attempts. You can only earn the quiz points if the quiz is taken ON or BEFORE the due date. You must complete the quiz BY YOURSELF. **You may not obtain assistance from another person while taking a quiz.**

**\*Completing HW and Quizzes at home:**

All HW and Quizzes may be completed outside of the MLL through **BlazerNet**, but students are responsible for any technical problems that may occur. Before students begin working at home, they must run the **browser check** and make sure they meet the **system requirements**. Please note that no make ups or extension of deadlines are given for technical problems. Students can and should complete all HW and Quizzes in advance of deadlines.

Some troubleshooting tips:

- **Close the browser** and start again by logging into BlazerNet.
- **Try another browser** if yours doesn't work. Install and use only supported browsers.
- You can only **ACCESS YOUR COURSE** through BlazerNet. **No other login pages will work.**
- If nothing works, contact Pearson's technical support via chat.
- Have a back-up plan. Make arrangements to work in the MLL or elsewhere in advance.
- Email your instructor if you have problems. (S)He might be able to help.

**Tests:** There are 4 major tests. Each test is worth 145 points. **Tests will be taken under the supervision of the instructor in the MLL (202 Heritage Hall) during scheduled lab meeting times.** Scratch paper will be provided. **NO PERSONAL CALCULATORS** are allowed. Each test has a 50 minute time limit. **Students are required to keep a government issued photo ID on their desks during testing (UAB student ID, driver's license, etc).** Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight. *Please note that during testing all computers are monitored for inappropriate behavior.*

Four **Practice Tests** are available in MyMathLab. The Practice Tests do not count towards your grade, but they are recommended as a way to help you prepare for your tests. They have more questions than the actual test, so they are not timed. You may take the practice tests as many times as you like.

### **UAB MLL (Math Learning Lab), 202 Heritage Hall**

All lab meetings are held in the MLL.

All tests are taken in the MLL during scheduled lab meetings under the supervision of the instructor. Students are encouraged to use the MLL at other times to work on their homework, take quizzes, obtain tutoring assistance, or listen to course video lectures.

The MLL is usually open Mon-Thurs 9am-8pm, Fri 9am-5pm from the first day of classes to the last day of classes. Limited hours are available during final exams. The MLL is closed during all holidays and breaks.

*Please note that ALL COMPUTER ACTIVITY is MONITORED in the MLL.*

### **Using MLL Computers:**

Log on to the computer with your BlazerID and password.

Click on Internet Explorer.

Go to UAB Quicklinks at the top right and click on **BlazerNet**.

Log in to BlazerNet with your BlazerID and password.

Click on the link to **MyMathLab Plus**.

Be sure to **CLOSE ALL WINDOWS** and **LOG OFF** the computer when you leave.

**Make-up policy:** In general, **NO MAKE-UPS are allowed**. There is no appeal for missed classes, labs, homework deadlines, or quiz deadlines (whether excused or unexcused). If a student has to miss class or lab due to *official university business*, then arrangements must be made **IN ADVANCE** to make up the missed work. All HW and Quizzes can and should be completed in advance.

If a test date is missed due to a **serious verifiable** circumstance, the student may submit an Appeal Form (available in the Math Department Office, 452 Campbell Hall) to the Math Department Appeals Committee. The *completed* Appeal Form, along with supporting documentation attached, must be submitted within one week to the Math Department Office, 452 Campbell Hall. The appeal will be reviewed by the Director of Curriculum, the course instructor, the course coordinator, and the Director of the MLL. The student will receive a prompt reply as to the adjudication of the appeal but should continue working in the course.

**Course Completion:** The course is complete once the student takes Test 4.

**Cell Phones.** Cell phones should be put on silence during all class and lab meetings. During testing, phones must be **TURNED OFF** and put out of sight. Failure to do this will result in test misconduct. If you are working in the MLL outside of scheduled meeting times, please be respectful of others and put your phone on silent mode, and step outside the lab to hold conversations.

**Math Help.** Tutoring assistance is available in the **MLL in 202 Heritage Hall**. No appointment is necessary. The hours of operation are usually Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 8:00pm, and Fridays 9:00am to 5:00pm. Limited hours are available during final exams. The MLL is closed during all holidays and breaks. More information can be viewed online at [www.uab.edu/mathematics](http://www.uab.edu/mathematics) under *Student Resources*.

**Calculator policy.** Scientific calculators may be used in class and for homework and quizzes, but **students may NOT use personal calculators during testing**. Note that all tests for this course are administered in the MLL during your scheduled lab meeting times, and there is a computer calculator available for your use when testing. Your instructor will not assist you with the calculator during a test, so you must learn how to use the computer calculator in the MLL *BEFORE* you have to take a test.

**Disability Support Services (DSS).** DSS approves special accommodations to students who qualify. Students may contact the UAB DSS office by telephone: 934-4205 or email: [dss@uab.edu](mailto:dss@uab.edu). Students who have DSS-approved accommodations must notify the instructor as soon as possible and make arrangements to meet in person to discuss the accommodations. No accommodations will be granted until DSS documentation is provided and the student has discussed the accommodations with the instructor. Every reasonable request for accommodation will be met where possible. If a student feels he needs additional consideration, he should contact UAB Disability Support Services at 934-4025 and notify the instructor about the request.

**Withdrawal:**

The last day for dropping this course (without the payment of full tuition and fees) is Jan 13, 2014. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of *W* is March 31, 2014.

Students withdraw from a course online or in the UAB Registrar's Office.

**Academic Conduct:**

All UAB students are expected to be familiar with the UAB Academic Honor Code as well as any honor codes that are specific to their schools or disciplines. The code represents a **commitment to integrity in the academic community** and a respect for an individual's educational endeavors.

**The UAB Academic Honor Code:**

UAB expects all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Students, faculty, and the administration of the institution must be involved to ensure this quality of academic conduct. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Such behavior is a serious violation of the trust that must exist among faculty and students for a university to nurture intellectual growth and development. **Academic misconduct can generally be defined as all acts of dishonesty in an academic or related matter.**

**Non Academic Conduct:**

The university is a community of scholars and learners, and, therefore, **all participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that:** 1) facilitates the institution's pursuit of its educational objectives; 2) **exhibits a regard for the rights of other members** of the academic community; and 3) **contributes to the maintenance of a healthy learning environment.** *Through appropriate due process procedures, conduct action will be taken in response to behavior that violates these principles.*

The Office of Non-Academic Student Conduct supports the academic mission of the university by protecting the rights of all members of the university community and by promoting civility, integrity, responsibility, openness, mutual respect and justice by enforcing community standards.