

Math 231: Discrete Mathematics
Fall 2011
Section B: TF 2:00–2:50, W 3:00–3:50 BNW 254A

Instructor Chris Staecker
Email: cstaecker@fairfield.edu
Phone: x3323
Office: BNW 16
Office Hours: T 10:30–11, 1–2, W 10–11, 1–3 (usually), F 10:30–11, 1–2
or by appointment

Course Website Follow links from <http://faculty.fairfield.edu/cstaecker>

Textbook Epp, *Discrete Mathematics with Applications*, fourth edition

Final Exam Wednesday December 21, 3:00

Course Description

Topics in this course include logic, sets, functions, equivalence relations and partitions, mathematical induction, and countability.

This course puts a particular emphasis on writing mathematically. This will include using words. Proof writing in particular is a major focus of the course.

Exams

There will be midterm exams in class on Friday, October 7, and Friday, November 11. Each of these will cover material up to and including the previous Monday. Exam makeups or rescheduling will be permitted only in extreme circumstances.

Students will not use calculators or any other electronic gadgetry during exams. Students wishing to use a cellphone on the desk during an exam as a clock should consider using a watch or turning their heads and looking at the clock every so often. This should be necessary no more than once per minute.

The two midterm exams will be weighted equally in your course grade, with the final exam weighted double. The final exam will be cumulative, but the midterm exams will not be.

Homework

Homework assignments are a significant part of the course. Assignments will be excerpts from the textbook exercises, and will be posted at the course website. Students are encouraged to work together on assignments, but each must hand in their own papers.

Homework will be due each Wednesday, with assignments covering material up to and including the previous Friday. Selected problems from each assignment will be graded.

Homework may be handed in for full credit at any time on the due date. Late homework assignments (without good excuse) will lose 1/3 credit per calendar day elapsed since the due date.

Quizzes

In the class meeting following each homework assignment due-date, a short quiz will be given, covering the same material as the homework. Quiz questions are meant to be similar to the easier questions on the homework. Missed quizzes will only be excused with good reasons.

Students will not use calculators or any other electronic gadgetry during quizzes.

Semester paper

A semester paper will be due on Monday, November 29 (the day after Thanksgiving Break). The paper will be written with small groups on a topic of the group's choosing. Group sizes will be from 1 to 3. More detailed information about the paper is forthcoming.

Class wiki

Students will contribute to the class wiki, an ongoing semester-long collaborative writing project. Each student is expected to make three minor contributions per week, and one major contribution every two weeks. More detailed information is provided in the wiki itself.

Office hours

The Professor regards visits to office hours as part of the instruction for this course. Responsible students in this course are expected to visit the Professor occasionally for help with homework and other class material. Class assignments are meant to stretch the abilities of the students, and the Professor expects even the best students to benefit from individual discussion. Students are encouraged to come in small groups if they don't want to come alone.

Extra credit

The Professor will not entertain requests for extra credit work. Students whose grades have fallen late in the term because of lack of effort or discipline early in the term are especially discouraged from asking for extra credit. Any such requests will be denied with extreme prejudice.

Grading

Your course grade will be inspired by an average, with the lowest quiz and homework scores dropped. The Professor reserves the right to adjust the course grade at his discretion. The grades are weighed as follows:

Homework	25%
Quizzes	25%
Class Wiki	10%
Semester paper	10%
Exams	30%

Cell phones and laptops

Students should have their mobile phones turned off during class. If a student's phone disrupts the class, that student will be publicly ridiculed and called a nimrod by the professor. Students should not use laptops or other electronic gadgetry (except calculators) during class, since these are very distracting to other students and the professor. If any student has a genuine need to use a computer for notetaking or some other legitimate purpose then this should be discussed with the professor.

Titular nomenclature

You may address the professor as "Papa Staecker," "Sergeant Staecker," "Dr. Staecker," "Professor," "Professor Staecker," or "Chris." I consider these options to be: ridiculous, technically incorrect, technically correct yet overly formal, acceptable, appropriate, and preferred, respectively. Please do not address me simply as "Staecker."

Protractors???

Protractors will not be required for this course.