

**MATH 1996: Topics in Mathematics Part 1 Problem Solving for Algebra Learners**  
**Fall 2020 (Online Class)**



Instructor: Precious Andrew email: [pandrew@unm.edu](mailto:pandrew@unm.edu)  
Office: Online via Zoom or email  
Office Hours/Study Sessions: Most Mondays and Wednesdays 1:15-3:15, most Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:25-2:25 or by appointment  
MECS Division Chair: Elaine W. Clark [ewclark@unm.edu](mailto:ewclark@unm.edu)

| Sect. | CRN   |
|-------|-------|
| 502   | 65383 |
| 504   | 65384 |

**Course Description**

This course (2 credits) will help students develop and implement strategies for achievement in mathematics throughout their college career and beyond. Placement: Math 1996 Part 1 is required of all students who place into Math 100.

**Textbook:** None

**Corequisite:** Math 100

**Grades:** Your grade will be based on the following allocation of points.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Regular check-ins with me</b>                             | 10%         |
| Participation via discussion postings of readings and videos | 30%         |
| Guided notes assignments due most Fridays                    | 30%         |
| Final project  | 30%         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>100%</b> |

**Course Format:**

1 – Rather than meeting during our scheduled meeting time, **you will be checking in with me regularly one on one via Zoom**. There will be a required meeting during the first week of class. Here I can answer any questions you have about this course or the homework from the Math 100 course.

2 – **You are responsible for submitting discussion posts** 1-2 times a week, according to the schedule of readings you'll be doing and videos you'll be watching.

3 – **You'll be submitting guided notes most Fridays**. These are assignments that include additional homework problems, definitions, etc. from your Math 100 class. You will print these out, fill them in, and then upload your completed assignments. You'll be submitting these via UNM Learn. They must be submitted as one readable pdf file. You'll need either a scanner or a photo to pdf scanner app on your device. These notes should be labeled clearly, organized, and neat and clear.

4 – **You'll submit a final project**. More details on your final project will be available later. You will choose two mathematical concepts from your Math 100 class (we can talk about the options later), then submit either a PowerPoint explaining two mathematical concepts in detail, a written paper explaining two mathematical concepts in detail, or a video explaining two mathematical concepts in detail.

**Late work is not accepted**. Instead, to account for absence, technology issues, etc., I will drop two low scores from the guided notes category. **You should submit assignments early and contact me with any issues**. That way we can resolve the problem before the item is due.

**Other Requirements:**

- Reliable access to a computer or tablet, and Internet. **A computer (laptop or desktop) is recommended**. Preferred browsers are Chrome, Firefox, or Safari. Preferred operating systems are Windows or Apple.
- Adobe Reader and Adobe Flash Player.
- Access to UNM Learn. You will use your UNM NetID to log into UNM Learn. You may access it directly via [learn.unm.edu](http://learn.unm.edu)
- Scanner or scanner app on your device.

**Here are some of the reasons you may be dropped from the class:**

- If you miss the first week of the semester – never log into UNM Learn or communicate with the instructor.
- If you don't submit 3 or more assignments (discussion posts or guided notes)
- If you miss our one on one meeting time without explanation.

**If you are dropped from Math 1996, you may be dropped from Math 100 as well.**

If you added late, documentation of absences starts the day you registered for the class.

**Expectations:** Students are expected to conduct themselves in a polite, courteous, professional, and collegial manner in any online communications with the instructor or other students. Students are expected to do their own work on the assignments and tests. Students are expected to set aside dedicated time each week to work on their assignments. Students are expected to stay up with posted deadlines for this course.

**Support:** If you are struggling in this course, do not be afraid to ask for help! Here are some options:

- Office Hours: See your instructor's office hours listed at the beginning of this syllabus. Feel free to log in for online office hours or make an appointment to get help.
- Study Groups: You may work together with other members of the class. However, if there is an assignment that is to be submitted individually, that assignment should be your work not copies from your group.
- Free Tutoring: The Math Center at Valencia campus has free tutoring available online to help with your course content questions as well as question about using tools. Send an email to [tutor@unm.edu](mailto:tutor@unm.edu) to schedule an appointment.
- Student Services: There are various services provided in our Student Services Department. See below about equal access. Also, we have a testing center, advising, and career placement available: [Valencia Student Services](#)

**Equal Access:** In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as I am not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow. Contact Accessibility Resource Center at 277-3506 for additional information.

If you need an accommodation based on how course requirement interacts with the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format and requirements, anticipate the need for adjustments and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Disability Services Office for assistance in developing strategies and verifying accommodation needs. If you have not previously contacted them I encourage you to do so.

If you are a Valencia campus student, contact Equal Access Services at Valencia Campus, Cheryl Dilger at [cdilger@unm.edu](mailto:cdilger@unm.edu) or [Valencia Student Services](#). If you are a main campus student you can receive documentation from the main campus [Accessibility Resource Center](#). I will not guarantee accommodation without the appropriate documentation.

**Academic Integrity:** Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. Plagiarism or cheating is not tolerated. Any instance of this will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Here is the link to the UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy: <https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html>. The policy states:

*Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.*

Academic Dishonesty is defined as:

*"Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.*

**Title IX Statement:** In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education (see pg. 15 - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity ([oeo.unm.edu](http://oeo.unm.edu)). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>

#### **Math 1996 Course Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
- Develop academic skills as a foundation for college learning.
- Employ critical thinking skills in problem-solving.
- Utilize multiple problem-solving strategies and methods.
- Develop a mathematical awareness of the world.
- Expand confidence in mathematical ability.

## Weekly Topics, Articles, And Videos

(some of the YouTube videos will have advertisements)

| Week                      | Topic                            | Link(s) to articles or videos   |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| August 17                 | Math Myths                       | <a href="#">Math Myths: Researchers debunk common misconceptions</a> , by John Brasher, in Vanderbilt News published by Vanderbilt University. January 31, 2017   |
| August 24                 | Learning from Mistakes           | <a href="#">Why Mistakes Matter in Creating a Path For Learning</a> , by Claudia Wallis, in Mind/Shift published by KQED. July 26, 2017   |
| August 31 and September 7 | Not a Math Person                | <a href="#">'Not a Math Person': How to Remove Obstacles to Learning Math</a> , by Katrina Schwartz, in Mind/Shift published by KQED. November 30, 2015   |
| September 14              | Everyone Can Do Well in Math     | <a href="#">Mindset with Jo Boaler</a> Video published in youtube by Stanford University, Graduate School of Education; <a href="#">Do You have Math Anxiety?</a> Video published on YouTube by GCFLearnFree.org. February 15, 2019   |
| September 21              | Mindfulness                      | <a href="#">Facts about the effects of mindfulness</a> by Shelley Kind and Stefan G. Hofmann, an article posted on Anxiety.org. November 10, 2014, February 10, 2016  |
| September 28              | Self-Efficacy                    | <a href="#">Self Efficacy and Why Believing in Yourself Matters</a> by Kendra Cherry, in Personality Psychology published by verywellmind. May 17, 2020   |
| October 5 and 12          | Rewire Your Brain for Math       | <a href="https://getpocket.com/explore/item/how-i-rewired-my-brain-to-become-fluent-in-math">https://getpocket.com/explore/item/how-i-rewired-my-brain-to-become-fluent-in-math</a> by Barbara Oakley, in Pocket Worthy published by Nautilus. September 15, 2016   |
| October 19                | Critical Thinking in Mathematics | <a href="#">Math Help: Critical Thinking in Math</a> with Jimmy Chang. Video published on YouTube by eHow. December 5, 2009; <a href="#">Anyone Can Be a Math Person Once They Know the Best Learning Techniques</a> with Po-Shen Loh. Video published on YouTube by BigThink under the auspices of The Hertz Foundation Fellowship. March 19, 2017 |
| October 26 and November 2 | Ways to Improve Self-Efficacy    | <a href="#">4 Ways To Improve And Increase Self-Efficacy</a> by Madhuleena Roy Chowdhury, in Home/The Self-published by PositivePsychology.com  |
| November 9                | Create a Study Plan for Life!    | Put together all you have learned about math myths, mindset, mindfulness, and self-efficacy to create a study plan for life!  |
| November 16               | What is Algebra?                 | <a href="#">Algebra Basics: What is Algebra?</a> Video posted on YouTube by Math Antics. May 22, 2015   |