

MATH 1996: Topics in Mathematics: Critical Thinking for Mathematics Spring 2021

Instructor: Andy Taylor

email: ataylor19@unm.edu

Section

CRN

Class Time

Location

502

66795

M/W 10:50am-11:40am

VACTC 108

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:00 pm – 3 pm on Zoom

Office hours Zoom Room Information:

- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/98190874379>
- Passcode: OfcHrs

MATH 1996 COURSE DESCRIPTION: Critical Thinking for Math (2 credits) will help students develop and implement strategies for mathematics achievement throughout their college career and beyond. Placement: Math 1996 is required of all students who place into Math 1000 or Math 021. **Co-requisite:** Math 100 or Math 021.

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.

COURSE MATERIALS:

- Reliable access to a computer or tablet and the Internet is required. A computer (laptop or desktop) is recommended. Preferred browsers are Chrome, Firefox, or Safari. Preferred operating systems are Windows or Apple.
- Access to UNM Learn. You will use your UNM NetID to log into UNM Learn. You may access it directly via learn.unm.edu
- Standard or Scientific calculator. This cannot be an app on your cell phone.
- Adobe Reader (a free download), preferably version 11.0 or better.
- Access to a device that will allow you to virtually send your written work, for example, a scanner or a phone with picture capabilities.

PARTICIPATION: (30% of Final Grade)

- You are expected to participate in the discussions in class. You are expected to have the necessary course materials needed to participate.
- There will be 1 to 2 weekly class discussions that will count towards your participation grade.
- You are expected to stay up to date with the class schedule of readings and discussions.

Absences: I do not require you to give me any documentation for falling behind in the class. However, I do ask that you communicate with me via email. If you start to fall behind for any

reason, please contact me as soon as possible to figure out what is needed for you to succeed in this class. If you fall behind in the class, you are still expected to complete all assignments.

Here are the reasons I may drop you from the class:

- If you miss the first week of the semester.
- If you have no presence in class, or are more than two weeks behind on assignments and fail to contact your instructor for two or more consecutive weeks.
- **If you are dropped from Math 1996, you will be dropped from Math 100 or Math 021 as well.**

If you added late, your counted absences start the day you registered for the class.

CLASS ACTIVITIES: (40% of final grade)

- There will be weekly class activities posted in Learn that will correspond with your Math 100 or Math 021 class.
- Each Unit in Math 100/Math 021 will have an associated activity in this class. These activities need to be completed. If you complete the in-class assignment, you may begin the next assignment.

FINAL PROJECT: (30% of your final grade)

Your final project will consist of the following:

- A) A cover letter
- B) One of the following
 - PowerPoint explaining two mathematical concepts in detail
 - A written Paper explaining two mathematical concepts in detail
 - A video explaining two mathematical concepts in detail
 - A completed project idea preapproved by the instructor

More instructions on how to complete your final project will be available separately.

SUPPORT: If you are struggling in this course, do not be afraid to ask for help!

- Office Hours: See my 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.
- Form study groups: You may work together with other members of our class.
- Free Tutoring: The Math Center at Valencia campus has free tutoring available online to help with your course content questions and questions about using tools. Send an email to tutor@unm.edu to schedule an appointment, or you can call 505-925-8907 for more information
- 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](#)

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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 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 to follow the most

appropriate procedures. 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, Jeanne Lujan at (505)925-8910 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.

Netiquette and Behavior Expectations

One of the overriding principles in online conversations is to “craft your responses effectively.” It is sometimes difficult to remember that real people are reading posted messages. This is especially true of online communication where others do not have the opportunity to see body language or hear a tone of voice; therefore, they have a greater possibility of misunderstanding what is meant.

Please, follow these guidelines in all of your online responses and discussion postings.

- Honor everyone’s right to an opinion.
- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Respond honestly but thoughtfully and respectfully; use language that others will not consider foul or abusive. You may also use emoticons to convey a lighter tone.
- Respect your privacy and the privacy of others by not revealing information that you deem private and which you feel might embarrass you or others.
- Be prepared to clarify statements that might be misunderstood or misinterpreted by others.

A Special Note about Anger

- Do not send messages that you have written when you are angry, even anonymous ones. In the online world, angry messages are known as “flaming” and are considered bad behavior. Venting and flaming are two different things. It is possible to vent without sounding angry. Stick to the facts of what is causing you frustration.
- Do not send messages written in the upper case; this is the visual equivalent of SHOUTING. It is considered aggressive and is regarded as bad behavior. If you ever feel like shouting a message, take a deep breath, and wait until you have calmed down before responding. Then, respond calmly and factually.

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: 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). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>

COURSE AVERAGES:

Participation	30%
Class Activities	40%
Final Project	30%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Overall Course Score
A	[90, 100]
B	[80, 90)
C	[70, 80)
CR	[70, 100]
NC	[0, 70)