



Welcome to Math 1996.502: Critical Thinking for Mathematics Spring 2025



Instructor

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Class Details

Tue/Thrs: 10:50am– 11:40am
VAAS 129
CRN 51726

Office Hours Rm. A113:

**Tue/Thurs: 8:30am-9:00am
1:15pm-1:45pm**
***Or by appointment**

Online via Google Meet

Friday:

<https://meet.google.com/sbd-iwff-kxn>

MECS Division Chair: Andy Taylor
ataylor19@unm.edu

Critical Thinking for Math (1 credit) 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 100. Co-requisite: Math 100.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives

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.

Textbook: None

Course Materials:

Reliable access to a computer or laptop and the internet is required

Access to UNM Canvas

Standard or 4-function calculator. This cannot be an app on your phone.

Credit-hour Statement: This is a one credit-hour course. Class meets for two 50-minute sessions of direct instruction for sixteen weeks during the Spring 2025 semester. Please plan for a minimum of four hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

Specific Course Requirements

This course is a co-requisite for Math 100 and is intended to supplement the work you will be doing in that class. Attendance and participation are required to complete this class successfully. You will also be completing a final project and presentation on a mathematical topic from math 100 or learning concept of your choice. The details will be provided to you.

Coursework:

Attendance and Participation (30% of your final grade)

- You are expected to attend every class meeting on time and stay the entire class. Points will be deducted for tardiness or leaving early.
- There will be class activities, discussions, and group collaboration.
- You are expected to contribute to and/or participate in all activities, discussions, and collaborations.

Absences: I do not require documentation for missing class. I do ask that you communicate with me via UNM email. If you start to fall behind, please talk to me so we can figure out what you need to do to succeed in this class. You are expected to complete all assignments missed during absences.

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

- If you miss the first week of the semester
- If you miss more than 3 classes
- If you miss 3 or more assignments without contacting me to discuss making them up **If you are dropped from or withdraw from Math 100, you will be dropped from Math 1996**

Do not depend on me to drop you if you decide not to take the class. You are responsible for withdrawing if you decide not to complete the course.

Class Activities/Discussions (40% of your final grade)

- There will be daily activities, videos, discussions, group work, etc. that will correspond with your math 100 class.
- These activities will be completed mostly in class and you are responsible for any missed due to absence. If you need more time than given in class to complete, it will be due at the beginning of the next class

Final Project (30% of your grade)

Your final project will consist of a presentation on the mathematical topic or learning concept of your choice. The presentation should be 8-12 minutes. You can present using Powerpoint, a written paper, poster, or any reasonable tools to aid with your presentation. You will turn that in to me the day you present. Details will be provided at a later date.

Instructor Response Time

I routinely check the course and my emails, Monday (8 am) – Friday (noon), and sometimes on the weekend. You can anticipate a 24 to 48-hour response from me, Monday – Thursday. I will try and respond to all weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday) emails and postings by noon on Monday or earlier

Grading Procedures

COURSE AVERAGES:

Attendance/Participation	30%
Class Activities	40%
Final Project and Presentation	30%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Course Average
A	90% or better
B	80% to 89%
C	70% to 79%
CR	70% or better
NC	69% or less

Semester Deadlines:

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Spring 2025– 16-week classes (deadlines will be different for first and second 8-week classes)

Monday, January 20: First day of class, classes available in UNM Canvas

Monday, January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, NO CLASS

Friday, January 31, by 5:00 pm: Last day to add a class or to change credit hours or grade mode in LoboWEB.

Friday, February 7, by 5:00 pm: Last day to drop without "W" grade and with 100% refund on LoboWEB

March 16-23, Spring Break

Friday, April 18, by 5:00 pm: Last day to drop without Dean's permission on LoboWEB. Will receive a "W" grade and will be responsible for tuition for the course.

Thursday, May 8, by 5:00 pm: Last day to drop with the permission form.

University Policies

COVID-19 Health and Awareness. UNM is a mask friendly, but not a mask required, community. To be registered or employed at UNM, Students, faculty, and staff must all meet UNM's [Administrative Mandate on Required COVID-19 vaccination](#). If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not come to class. If you have a positive COVID-19 test, please stay home for five days and isolate yourself from others, per the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidelines](#). If you do need to stay home, please communicate with me at lavitia@unm.edu. I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. UNM faculty and staff know that these are challenging times. Please let me, an advisor, or another UNM staff member know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources. Please be aware that UNM will publish information on websites and email about any changes to our public health status and community response.

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and the opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact the UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu.

UNM is committed to providing courses that are inclusive and accessible for all participants. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an accessible classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity.

If you are experiencing physical or academic barriers, or concerns related to mental health, physical health and/or COVID-19, please consult with me after class, via email/phone or during office hours. You are also encouraged to contact [Accessibility Resource Center](#) at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone 277-3506.

If you are a Valencia campus student, contact Equal Access Services at Valencia Campus at (505)925-8560 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.

Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question or for the course.

Respectful and Responsible Learning: We all have shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely, honestly, and equitably. Submitting material as your own work that has been generated on a website, in a publication, by an artificial intelligence algorithm, by another person, or by breaking the rules of an assignment constitutes academic dishonesty. It is a student code of conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. *Please ask me for help in finding the resources you need to be successful in this course. I can help you use study resources responsibly and effectively.* Off-campus paper writing services, problem-checkers and services, websites, and AIs can be incorrect or

misleading. You can only learn the course material if you complete and submit your own work. UNM preserves and protects the integrity of the academic community through multiple policies including policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (<https://pathfinder.unm.edu>) and the *Faculty Handbook* (<https://handbook.unm.edu>).

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 Reporting Obligations: Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus, especially the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center and the support services listed on its website (<http://loborespect.unm.edu/>). Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator at the [Office of Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity](#). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS: There are resources on campus designed to help you succeed. You can approach any faculty or staff for help with any issues you may encounter. Many faculty and staff have completed the GREEN ZONE training to learn about the unique challenges facing military-connected students. If you feel that you need help beyond what faculty and/or staff can give you, please reach out to the Veterans Resource Center on main campus at 505-277-3181, or by email at vrc@unm.edu. The Veterans Coordinator at UNM-Valencia is in the Student Services Office, at 505-925-8560.

Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.