

Mth 01, Fundamental Concepts and Skills in Arithmetic and Algebra

Section D06, Spring 2021

Course Orientation

Hello everyone and welcome to MTH 01. My name is Cormac and I'll be your instructor. I always enjoy teaching this course as it covers the fundamental skills of working with numbers and is important for your following classes in every subject. These skills are also so useful in your everyday life, such as in understanding credit card statements and your wages and taxes for example. By the end of the semester I hope you will be much more confident in dealing with all kinds of number related questions as well as basic algebra.

Instructor: Prof. Cormac O'Sullivan

Email. You can email me questions at any time:

cormac.osullivan@bcc.cuny.edu

Office hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:00 am, Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00 pm.

My office hours will be held on Zoom. Just say hello and I'll turn on my sound and camera and we can figure out what you're stuck on.

Blackboard: (to get to it, follow the Quicklinks at bcc.cuny.edu)

Login to Blackboard and find our class section there. Every week there will be new class notes and videos along with homework to do. The class calendar will be there and also information, links, solutions, review sheets and more. All your homework files and exams must be uploaded through Blackboard (not emailed to me).

Book

The textbook we'll be using is free to download and you will see the link for it:

ARITHMETIC: A Textbook for Math 01 (5th Edition 2015) by Anthony Weaver.

This course will be a combination of live Zoom sessions and recorded videos. There will be some online tests, but your main job will be working on the two types of weekly homework sets. The first type of homework is done online through WebWork. I will grade the second type myself, give you detailed feedback, and you will have the opportunity to fix mistakes. The key to success is in understanding the main concepts – as well as lots of practice. Even if you don't think of yourself as a “math person”, I am sure that with some effort you will be able to do well.

If you get stuck in a topic or are having any difficulties then please ask me about it during our Zoom sessions. I'm sure others will be having the same difficulties as you. I especially encourage you to visit my Zoom office hours where we can usually work one-on-one or in smaller groups. I am here to help. You may also find assistance from the math department's online tutorial lab and discuss questions with other class members through Blackboard. The important thing is that you keep trying, even though the material can be challenging, and know that lots of support is available.

Classes

Our class times are scheduled as Monday, Wednesday from 2 – 4, but we will only have live Zoom sessions on **Mondays from 2 – 3**. These sessions are to review the previous week's material, answer questions and look at homework problems. Please have your microphone on mute unless you are speaking. It is nicer if you have your camera on, but that's up to you.

I will make class notes and videos that you can study and watch whenever is convenient. Then you will be able to try the homework exercises. Please email me or come to my Zoom office hours if you have any questions about the material or the homework. I will not take any attendance, but I can see on Blackboard who is logging in.

Grades

The only passing grades in this course are A, B and C. So to pass you must score at least 70% overall. Your overall grade will be based on:

- Webwork homework (worth 30%). This is homework that you do online using the WebWork system.
- Regular homework (worth 30%). These exercises you do by hand and send to me every week through Blackboard. Scan your pages into a single pdf using an app like Genius Scan. You will lose points if homework is late.
- Midterm exam (worth 15%).
- Final exam (worth 25%).

Using Genius Scan

For this course I recommend you add the app “Genius Scan” to your phone. It is free and available for Android or OS. It allows you to quickly take pictures of your homework pages and makes them into a single pdf file. (It scans each page which is much better than a photograph.) You can use other similar apps but I will only accept homework and exams that are a single scanned pdf.

Tips for doing well in this course:

- For each week of the semester there will be a folder in Blackboard. I will add class notes and videos to the folder for each class that week. Watch the video and make your own notes. After that, read through that part of the textbook to find more information and examples.
- Then you can try that week's homework questions. It is important that you keep up with the homework. As I mentioned before, late homework is worth less and I will give no credit for very late homework.
- If you have any questions or confusion about the material or the homework exercises then please do ask me about it – in our class Zoom sessions, in my office hours or by email.
- There will also be online tutoring assistance available from the Math Tutorial Lab.

We are working online this semester instead of in a classroom. That introduces challenges and gives us some opportunities too. In a separate video I will go through further details of the course and all the software and apps we will need. The first homework set will include a short survey to help me learn a little about you and your background. Please email me with questions or concerns at any time and I'll get back to you promptly. I'm looking forward to working with you this semester!

Further information

Accommodations/Disabilities:

BCC respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact DisAbility Services as soon as possible this semester. A Disability Services specialist will work with you to review the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations for this course. You can reach DisAbility Services by email at disabilityservices@bcc.cuny.edu or by phone at (718) 289-5874. You may also reach DisAbility Services through Microsoft Teams. Download the Teams app, login using your CUNYfirst login, and join the DSO Student Service Center team using the following access code: neewu66.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism and cheating) is prohibited at Bronx Community College and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, dismissal and expulsion. For additional information and the full policy on Academic Integrity, please consult the BCC College Catalog.

Recording of Remote Classes:

Students who participate in this class with their camera on or use a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded solely for the purpose of creating a record for students enrolled in the class to refer to, including those enrolled students who are unable to attend live. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.