

MTH 21 (D01) A Mathematical World, Fall 2025

Course Information

Instructor: Prof. Cormac O'Sullivan

Office: CP 317 (The CP or CPH building is the one with the big concrete arch. Go to 3rd floor.)

Office hours: Monday 11:30 – 12:30, Wednesday 11:30 – 12:30.

Email: *cormac.osullivan@bcc.cuny.edu*

Class web page: <http://fsw01.bcc.cuny.edu/cormac.osullivan>

This is a regular web page (not on Brightspace). I'll email everyone the link. It will contain the class calendar, information, due homework, review sheets and more.

Book

As shown on the syllabus, we will use the book 'Mathematics, A Practical Odyssey', by D. Johnson and T. Mowry, 8th edition. It is a good idea to buy this textbook. You'll also need a scientific calculator.

Attendance

I will take attendance at the start of each class. Please arrive on time!

Grading

Homework (20%). Assignments will be posted on the class web page every week, to be handed in the following week.

Quizzes (20%). There will be 4 quizzes.

Midterm (25%)

Final (35%). The final will cover all the material in the course. The questions will be similar to homework and quiz questions.

Advice about the homework

Really, the only way to pass this course is by figuring out how to do the weekly homework questions and understanding them yourself. If you hand in the homework without understanding it – for example by using apps, online assistance or asking your friend to do it – then you will likely fail this course. Remember, homework is only worth 20% of your grade while tests are worth 80%. But if you keep up with the homework then you'll do well on the quizzes, midterm and final exam.

So put some effort into the homework sets. Write your answers neatly on notepaper. Leave plenty of space so I can include comments and corrections. I will deduct points, or have you hand it in again, if your answers are untidy, squashed together or hard to grade.

If you get stuck and don't understand something then there are lots of ways to get help: talk to me after class or email me, come to my office hours or set up a time to meet. You can also get tutoring assistance at the Math Tutorial Lab which is open all semester, starting soon. It is in-person in CP 303, and online.