

Math 239, Discrete Structures
1:10–2:00 pm, MTRF
Spring 2009

This course introduces the many of the basic tools and concepts of mathematics. Throughout this course you will be developing your skill at mathematical writing, your ability to create mathematical proofs, and your appreciation of the applicability of mathematics. Students taking this course should have had at least one semester of calculus and should be prepared to experience the glories of mathematics.

Instructor: Robert Messer Office hours: 2:10 pm, MTRF
Palenske 228 and by appointment
629-0200
ram@albion.edu

Website: <http://www.albion.edu/math/ram/courses/math239/>

Text: *Discrete Mathematics with Applications* (third edition) by Susanna Epp

Grading:	3 fifty-minute exams	300 pts
	final exam	150 pts
	quizzes and class participation	30 pts
	weekly homework	80 pts
	total	<hr/> 560 pts (approximately)

Grading scale:	4.0	95%	3.0	80%	2.0	65%	1.0	50%
	3.7	90%	2.7	75%	1.7	60%		
	3.3	85%	2.3	70%	1.3	55%		

You are required to attend all classes. You are responsible for all material covered in class and for turning in assignments on the due dates. You will not be able to re-create the experience of class participation on your own.

No early, late, or make-up exams will be given. If you miss an exam due to a death in your immediate family or a serious medical problem beyond your control, I will base your grade for the material on that exam on your final exam and other work in the course.

Mathematics is a subject that requires work, practice, and concentration. Expect to spend a minimum of eight hours per week outside of class in order to appreciate the excitement, beauty, and usefulness of discrete mathematics. Before each class period, look over the upcoming material. Afterward, review your notes and reread the corresponding section in the text. Contact me immediately if you have any remaining questions about the material. As you work the exercises, think about how the problems and possible modifications fit into the general theory. Finally, be sure you have mastered the techniques, theory, and applications of the material. Take charge of your mathematical education. The rewards are great, but you will not be able to do all of this the night before an exam. You may have to scale back your participation in the anticurriculum.