

Math 251
Williams College
Fall 2006
Theron J. Hitchman

Course Policies

Math 251 is an introduction to discrete methods in mathematics, as a complement to Calculus. There is no prerequisite set of knowledge needed to participate, but previous courses in mathematics to build experience and "maturity" are helpful. For a fuller discussion of the aims of this course and some advice on how to succeed, please read the *Open letter to students*.

This class meets in Bronfman 105 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:45 am. I will hold office hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-10 am and on Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11 am. I am happy to make appointments if these times prove inconvenient on a regular basis.

My Contact information is as follows: *Office*: 232 Bronfman; *Office phone*: x2196; *email*: Theron.J.Hitchman@williams.edu.

Everyday administrative aspects of this course (read homework assignments and class announcements) will be posted on the Blackboard website.

And now, for the business end of the document.

Text Discrete Mathematics with Graph Theory, by Goodaire and Parmenter. (either second or third edition is okay).

Assessment Your grade for this course will be based on two sources of evaluation: homework and exams.

Homework You shall complete a short homework assignment every week (approximately). Assignments will typically consist of 5-6 problems. Collaboration is encouraged. Each student must prepare their paper *individually*. That is, feel free to discuss and work together. When it is time to write, find your own space and write it by yourself.

Exams We shall have three exams: in-class exams on Thursday, October 12 and Thursday, November 9, and a final exam.

Exam-homework tandem At the end of each examination, you will receive a blank copy of the exam to complete as a homework assignment *due during the next class*. Each student will repeat this exercise until they master the exam.

Grading Homework will be worth 10% of the final grade, each exam worth 30%.