

Course Lecturer: Demitri Plessas

Phone: 243-4103

Office: MA 004E

E-Mail: demitri.plessas@umontana.edu

Catalog Description: (from <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/mathsci.htm>)

U 105 Contemporary Mathematics 3 cr. Offered every term. Prereq., MATH 095D or appropriate placement score. An introduction to mathematical ideas and their impact on society. Intended for students wishing to satisfy the general education mathematics requirement.

Class Web Page: <http://www.math.umt.edu/105>

Course Coordinator: First person to see with complaints, questions, etc. about this course that cannot be resolved with the instructor.

Lauren Fern.....Math 205B.....243-5398.....fernl@mso.umt.edu

Free Tutoring:

MLC

Monday - Thursday from 10am - 4pm

Math @ Mansfield

Monday - Thursday from 11am - 3pm

Sunday - Thursday from 6:30pm - 9pm

Learning Goals:

1. To attain some degree of mathematical literacy, including an ability to read mathematical material and write using mathematical notation correctly. To develop skills to think and reason mathematically in order to function more effectively in the modern world.
2. To examine ways in which mathematics is used, to follow and understand logical arguments, and to solve applied quantitative problems. This includes learning to formulate a problem precisely, to interpret solutions, and to make critical judgments in the face of competing formulations and solutions.
3. To understand elementary probability concepts and phenomena: including sample spaces with equally likely outcomes, the basic parameters (mean, standard deviation), the normal distribution, and a qualitative view of the Central Limit Theorem.
4. To understand elementary statistical concepts, such as data description, statistical estimation, randomization, and statistical inference.
5. To explore and examine several other aspects of contemporary mathematics. This could include, but is not limited to, management science (e.g. graph models for network problems), social choice and decision making (e.g. elections, voting, fair division, Congress apportionment), or applied geometry (e.g. symmetry, tilings, growth rates).

Notes About the Course: This course is designed to illustrate several ways in which mathematics is used in the “real world”. We will explore some topics of general interest which are not typically taught in a formal mathematics class. The goal is for you to see not only how useful mathematics is, but also how beautiful and elegant it can be.

Text: *For All Practical Purposes*, 8th ed., COMAP.

Grading: Final Grades are comprised of homework, quizzes, three exams, and an optional final exam using the following scale (out of 100%).

A ≥ 93 > A- ≥ 90 > B+ ≥ 87 > B ≥ 83 > B- ≥ 80 > C+ ≥ 77 > C ≥ 73 > C- ≥ 70 > D+ ≥ 67 > D ≥ 63 > D- ≥ 60 > F

Exams: There will be three exams in this course. They are worth 100 points each.

Homework and Quizzes: There will be regularly assigned homework and in-class quizzes. Worth 100 points total.

Optional Final: During the last week of classes, grades will be distributed and those who wish to improve their final grade can take an optional cumulative final exam given during our regular exam time – 10:10-12:10 on Wednesday May 9th.

If you are taking this course as a general education requirement, you must take it for a traditional letter grade (not CR/NCR). A grade of 'D-' is considered passing and will earn you credit for the course, BUT it will NOT fulfill your general education requirement and you will have to re-take the class. A grade of **C- or better** is needed to fulfill the math literacy requirement.

Add/Drop Policy: The last day to add/drop or change grading option to Audit by Cyberbear is 2/10. The last day to change sections and to change grading options is 3/26. This is also the last day to drop. Changes after this deadline and until 5/4 must be done by Petition and be approved by me, your advisor and the appropriate Dean. Approval requires genuine extenuating circumstances as listed in the university catalog.

Extenuating circumstances are:

1. Missing a substantial number of classes due to illness, accident or family emergency.
2. A change in work schedule that makes it impossible to attend class or devote adequate time to the course.
3. Registration in the course by error and never attending class.

Reasons that are not satisfactory include:

1. Forgetting to turn in a drop slip.
2. Protecting your grade point average.

Incomplete (I) Grades: To be eligible for an "I", the following conditions must be met:

1. The student must have been in attendance and **passing** the course up to 3 weeks before the semester ends; and
2. The student is unable to complete the course due to extenuating circumstances, which usually means serious illness or death in the family.

Incompletes are not given under any other circumstances and are always given at the discretion of the instructor. See the 2011-2012 catalog for further information.

Misconduct: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. Available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>

Special Accommodations: Students with disabilities are welcome to discuss accommodations with me.

Important University-Wide Info and Dates:

- Friday, 10 February, 5:00 pm: Last Day to Add/Drop by CyberBear. Also last day to select AUDIT option. After this date, a drop results in W on transcript and no refund is given.
- Monday, 20 February: President's Day
- 2 -6 April: SPRING BREAK
- Monday, 26 March, 4:30 pm: Last Day to Drop by Paper Form. Transcript will show WP or WF. \$10 fee.
- Friday, 27 April 5:00 pm: Last Day to Withdraw from all courses
- Friday, 4 May, 4:30 pm: Last Day to petition for a drop or change of grading option