Catalog Description: (from http://www.umt.edu/catalog/mathsci.htm) 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 Instructor: Nick Grener Corbin 355 nicholas.grener@umontana.edu
Course Coordinator: Lauren Fern Math 205B fernl@mso.umt.edu 243-5398

Lauren is the first person to see with questions about the course that cannot be resolved with me.

Class Meetings: MWF 2:10-3:00 PM in Math 211

Office Hours: Held in Math @ Mansfield (first floor of the library- to the right when you walk through the main entrance). If the following times all conflict with your class/work schedule, e-mail me and we can make an appointment to meet at another time.

Tuesday 3:10-4:00 PM Wednesday 3:10-4:00 PM Friday 11:10 AM-12:00 PM

Required Text: Quantitative Literacy: Thinking Between the Lines, Crauder et al.

Required Tools: Some sort of calculator is required, as you may not share calculators on exams. A graphing calculator may be useful at some points in the course, but it is certainly not mandatory (graphing calculators are available to borrow in the math office). YOU MUST BRING YOUR TEXTBOOK, A NOTEBOOK, AND A CALCULATOR TO EVERY CLASS MEETING.

Course Goals:

• To attain some degree of mathematical literacy, including an ability to read mathematical material and write using mathematical notation correctly in order to function more effectively in the modern world.

• To learn how to formulate a problem precisely, to interpret solutions, and to make critical judgments in the face of competing formulations and solutions.

• To gain confidence in working through challenging situations; to cultivate patience, persistence, and the ability to ask for appropriate assistance when confronted with a seemingly unsolvable problem.

Grading: If you are taking this class to meet general education requirements, you must select the traditional grade rather than Credit/No Credit. There are three exams (September 28, October 26, and December 5) and an optional final (Thursday, December 13 at 1 PM); any arrangements for the make-up of missed tests must be scheduled prior to the test date. If a test is missed without making prior arrangements, the grade is recorded as a zero.

There will be 13 online homework assignments throughout the semester, and they will be due at 2 PM on Fridays. Your two lowest homework scores for the semester will be dropped. Collaboration on homework with other members of the class is allowed, but since all exam problems will come from the homework, it is important that you are ultimately able to solve each homework problem on your own. SINCE YOUR LOWEST TWO HOMEWORK SCORES GET DROPPED, HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE FOR CREDIT. As such, it is a good idea to get started early on each assignment so that if any questions arise, you can get them addressed during office hours.

The calculation of the final grade in the course will be 60% exams (each of the three exams will be worth 20% of the overall grade), 35% homework, and 5% attendance. If you choose to take the optional final, it can not adversely affect your grade in the course- it will replace your lowest exam score from the semester, unless it is lower than all of those test scores, in which case it won’t count for anything. Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

A: ≥90%  B: ≥80%  C: ≥70%  D: ≥60%  F: <60%.
There will be a couple of extra credit opportunities along the way, but the easiest way to earn a good grade in this class is to stay on top of the reading and complete all of the homework diligently. To meet the Mathematical Literacy Requirement, you must earn a C- (70%).

Add/Drop Policy: The last day to drop the course or change the grading option to Audit by Cyberbear is September 17. The last day to change sections and to change grading options is October 29. Changes after this deadline and until December 7 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 grades (I) are only given to students who have been in attendance and passing the course up to 3 weeks before the semester ends, and who are unable to complete the course due to a serious illness or death in the family. See the 2012-2013 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, which is 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.

Keys to Success:
1) Do not procrastinate. Sometimes math problems need to simmer in your mind a bit before you figure them out, and if you wait to start an assignment until the night before it's due, you don’t give yourself an opportunity to get help on the hard problems. Since everything you are expected to demonstrate mastery of on the exams will be from the homework, if you don’t solve the problem on the homework, there’s almost no chance of you solving it on the exam.
2) Swallow your pride. Math is hard! In order to ultimately learn most math concepts, you need to be willing to be wrong along the way. If you get a problem incorrect, instead of feeling ashamed or sorry for yourself, think “This means I need to spend some more time on this concept.”
3) Work collaboratively. Learning anything is more fun when you do it in small groups and bounce ideas off of each other. I talk about every single one of my assignments with my classmates to make sure I understand it before I turn it in, and I encourage you to do the same.

If you follow this advice, I guarantee that you will feel good about your progress at the end of the semester.

Other Important Points:
• FULL ATTENDANCE AT ALL CLASS MEETINGS IS MANDATORY. You are permitted two unexcused absences, but each further absence (or missing of more than 10 minutes of a class meeting) results in a half-point deduction from your final grade.
• There will be no class on Monday, September 3, Wednesday, November 12, Wednesday, November 21, and Friday, November 23
• Free tutoring is available at Math @ Mansfield (on the main floor of the Mansfield Library) Monday - Thursday from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM and Sunday-Thursday from 6:30-9:00 PM
• Please turn your cellphones and all other electronic devices (except calculators) off during class. Texting (or browsing) during class is rude and distracting.