

University of Pennsylvania
Math 1700 Ideas in Mathematics
Spring 2025 Evening Section



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Course objective: The first goal of this course is to practice thinking like mathematicians. The second goal is to convince you that this does not have to be painful, that it involves creativity, and that it can be useful in (some) non-mathematical settings. You should leave the class feeling as if you have an understanding of what mathematics is really like.

Class: Lecture will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm in Fagin Hall Room 213. Attendance in lecture is strongly encouraged; lecture attendance will be taken and will factor into your grade. It is very important that you attend and participate in the lecture. It will be interactive, so your participation is critical.

Classroom Decorum: Students must be on time for class and should refrain from leaving and re-entering the classroom during lecture. If a student has a legitimate reason for being excused early from class, then he or she should discuss this with me before class. Cell phones may not be used during class (**no texting**) and should be silent. Laptops or tablets may be used for taking notes. It is important that you refrain from excessive talking during lecture as a courtesy to your fellow students. Students will receive Course Problem Notices (CPNs) for poor attendance, poor test grades, poor homework or quiz grades, or poor behavior in lecture.

Course Webpage : <https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1841211>

Canvas will be used as our class website and grade server so that students can get all class information and always know their standing in the course. You will also find many different types of videos there as well (Concept Videos, lecture leftover videos and problem solution videos).

Text: We will not use a traditional text that you buy in the bookstore. For our units, we will utilize free online textbooks.

Main Text 1: <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/waymakermath4libarts/>

Main Text 2: <https://richardhammack.github.io/BookOfProof/>

Topics covered:

Unit 1: Introduction to Number Systems
Unit 2: Set Theory
Unit 3: Logic/Proof
Unit 4: Graph Theory
Unit 5: Probability
Unit 6: Game Theory

We will drop your lowest unit, so 5 units count for your grade (20% each). Each unit will be covered in 4 lecture days. The 20% for each unit will be distributed the following way: Worksheet (12%), Quiz (12%), and Participation (1%).

Worksheets will be graded for correctness and completeness. They will due on the day of the quiz.

Here are the 6 Quiz dates:

Unit	Quiz Date
Unit 1	January 28
Unit 2	February 11
Unit 3	February 25
Unit 4	March 20
Unit 5	April 10
Unit 6	April 29

We will not have class on the following days (all Thursdays):
February 27, March 27, April 3, April 24 (and of course no class or class work during spring break).

There is no final exam, the last day of class will be April 29th.

ADA Compliance : The Office of Student Disabilities Service (SDS) is part of the Weingarten Learning Resources Center. It provides accommodated exams and assistive technology (along with many other services) to students that self-identify in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please see their website (<https://weingartencenter.universitylife.upenn.edu/>) for more information. This most often takes the form of students that require extra time to take an exam taking the exam at the Weingarten Center.

Code of Academic Integrity : The following is from the University's website on academic integrity:

"Since the University is an academic community, its fundamental purpose is the pursuit of knowledge. Essential to the success of this educational mission is a commitment to the principles of academic integrity. Every member of the University community is responsible for always upholding the highest standards of honesty. Students, as members of the community, are also responsible for adhering to the principles and spirit of the following Code of Academic Integrity found here: <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>
If a student is unsure whether his action(s) constitute a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity, then it is that student's responsibility to consult with the instructor to clarify any ambiguities.