



Syllabus for Math 5: Contemporary Mathematics

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall, 2021

Course ID & Section #: Math-5-D2180

Instructor's name: Levi Gill

Location: DM 23

Course units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office hours: By appointment

Email address: levi-gill@redwoods.edu

Catalog Description

An introduction to mathematics for students not pursuing science, business, and math majors. Surveys selected topics with a focus on history, utility, and artistry to promote appreciation and critical understanding of the foundational importance of mathematics to contemporary society.

Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills through analyzing mathematical ideas in the context of contemporary society.
2. Use mathematical skills and techniques when arguing a position on a contemporary issue.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

A	$92 \leq \text{Grade}$
A-	$90 \leq \text{Grade} < 92$
B+	$87 \leq \text{Grade} < 90$
B	$82 < \text{Grade} < 87$
B-	$80 \leq \text{Grade} \leq 82$
C+	$78 \leq \text{Grade} < 80$
C	$70 \leq \text{Grade} < 78$
D	$60 \leq \text{Grade} < 70$
F	$\text{Grade} < 60$

Grading Categories

Exams25%

We'll have a midterm and final exam. The final won't be cumulative; it will just cover the new material since the midterm. The exams will have two parts. In the first part will be essay questions that ask you to tell me what you know about a given topic. The second part will have calculation problems where you do the math part. Because this class covers a large variety of topics, I'll give you the option to skip one or two questions simply because you don't feel that comfortable with them. But you need to have mastery over the rest!

Homework.....50%

Because this is not a stereotypical math class, you're not going to just be doing a bunch of calculations (though you will be doing calculations). You're also going to do things like small research projects, reading articles, responding to videos, building things, growing things, counting things... A bunch of times I'm going to use the homework in the next class. When I'm grading, I'm going to be primarily looking for whether or not you've completed the homework, and give you feedback where you need improvement. Mastery isn't expected until the exams. Also, please keep your returned homework! You'll want it for studying and for record in case I make an error recording your grade (it doesn't happen often, but it happens).

Final Project25%

The theme of this class is "Math in Society" and I want the final project to reflect something that interests *you*. Here are some suggestions:

Essays (Approximately 5 pages)

- An essay on a topic of the use of math in society (however it cannot be about something that was covered in class).
- An essay on a topic of the history or mathematics.
- A biographic essay on a mathematician (or mathematicians if there's a theme you want to explore).

Multimedia/Art

- You can make a video interview of somebody using math in society, or make an audio podcast on a topic. If you do this, the video/audio must be edited.
- You can create a piece of art exploring a theme of mathematics.

If you can think of something else you would like to do that intersects with your interest, then come talk to me. I'm pretty open so long as it requires an adequate level of rigor and effort on your part.

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

During COVID19—DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Setting Your Preferred Name in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. This does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

[Canvas Help for students: https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Home/Student-Resources/Canvas-Resources](https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Home/Student-Resources/Canvas-Resources)

Canvas online orientation workshop: <https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/6781>

Community College Student Health and Wellness

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).

[Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu.

Emergency procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones. Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into WebAdvisor

<https://webadvisor.redwoods.edu> and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions. For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel

Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

Del Norte Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [Crescent City campus emergency map](#) for campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information, see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook award, career academic and personal counseling, school supplies, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!
- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#)
- The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821

