



## Syllabus for Contemporary Math

### Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2023

Course ID & Section #: MATH-5-E4908

Instructor's name: Erin Wall

Location: Online, asynchronous (no required meetings)

Course units: 3

### Instructor Contact Information

Office location or \*Online: SC 216G on Eureka Campus, but can meet via Zoom

Office hours: By appointment. Can be done in-person on Eureka Campus or via Zoom

Phone number: (707) 476-4351

Email address: [erin-wall@redwoods.edu](mailto:erin-wall@redwoods.edu) (Can also message through Canvas) – Best Way to Contact Me

### 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

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.

### Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation

None

### Educational Accessibility & Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and ADHD
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- A learning disability (e.g., dyslexia, reading comprehension), intellectual disability, autism, or acquired brain injury
- Vision, hearing, or mobility challenges

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, tutoring, counseling and advising, alternate formats of materials (e.g., audio books, E-texts), assistive technology, on-campus transportation, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Disability Services and Programs](#)

[for Students \(DSPS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact DSPS for a consultation: [dsps@redwoods.edu](mailto:dsps@redwoods.edu).

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, Student Services Building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, Main Building, near the library
- Klamath-Trinity: 707-476-4280

## **Evaluation & Grading Policy**

We will be using contract grading in this class. Below are the options you can select from:

For an A:

- Earn at least 90% of the homework points
- Earn at least 90% of the discussion/class activity points
- Earn a “Meets Standard” on 4 out of the 4 Unit Projects

For an A-: One of the above categories falls in the B range

For a B+: One of the below categories falls in the A range

For a B:

- Earn at least 80% of the homework points
- Earn at least 80% of the discussion/class activity points
- Earn a “Meets Standard” on 3 out of the 4 Unit Projects

For a B-: One of the above categories falls in the C range

For a C+: One of the below categories falls in the B range

For a C:

- Earn at least 70% of the homework points
- Earn at least 70% of the discussion/class activity points
- Earn a “Meets Standard” on 2 out of the 4 Unit Projects

For a D:

- Earn at least 60% of the homework points
- Earn at least 60% of the discussion/class activity points
- Earn a “Meets Standard” on 1 out of the 4 Unit Projects

Anything less than this will earn you an F.

(If you earn some combination, such as A level in homework, B level in discussion/class activities, and then a C in Unit Projects, you would get a B in the class. For this averaging to apply you must earn at least 50% of homework points and at least 50% of discussion/class activity points)

During the first week you will be letting me know the grade you are working towards so, I have a better idea of how to support you during the semester.

## **Weekly Module Discussions/ Class Activities**

Your presence and participation in the Weekly Module Discussions/Activities informs me, and you, as to whether you are gaining an understanding of the material, as well as, assists in deepening everyone’s understanding of the material. The discussions/class activities give you a chance to practice and build your

capacity to integrate mathematical ideas into your critical thinking within the context of contemporary issues. They also help us develop and maintain a supportive learning community. There will be 1 in each weekly module. Each will be worth 10 points. 5 points for your initial post and 5 points for completing the required follow-up posts. These cannot be made up nor completed after that week's module closes as folks will have moved on to the next week's module.

## Homework

There will be one 20-point homework assignment each week except right before a Unit Project is due. Most of these will be through MyOpenMath linked within Canvas. The homework gives you a chance to practice the mathematical skills and reasoning we have been studying. With the assignments on MyOpenMath you also get to have immediate feedback on how you are doing and be able to practice until you feel comfortable with each type of problem. Homework can be submitted late up until that unit's project is due.

## Unit Projects

A Unit Project will be due at the completion of each unit we cover. See the Tentative Calendar below for when these are due. The Unit Projects will evaluate your understanding and ability to apply mathematics to contemporary issues. More information on each of these will be given at the start of each unit. Please reach out to me if something is going on and you are not able to complete a Unit Project on time, I will try and work with you. These (except for the last one) can be resubmitted once by the end of Week 16 on December 15, 2023.

## Tentative Schedule

Week 1	Introductions, Begin Problem Solving Unit: Basic Percent Problems
Week 2	Applications of Percents
Week 3	Dimensional Analysis & Geometry
Week 4	Wrap up Problem Solving Unit (Unit Project Due)
Week 5	Begin Finance Unit: Simple Interest, Compound Interest
Week 6	Saving Annuities
Week 7	Payout Annuities
Week 8	Wrap up Finance Unit, Loans (Unit Project Due)
Week 9	Statistics
Week 10	Statistics/Describing Data
Week 11	Describing Data
Week 12	Wrap Up Statistics Unit (Unit Project Due)
Week 13	Begin Art & Fractal Unit (Symmetry & Perspective)
Week 14	Fractals
Week 15	Music
Week 16	Wrap up Art & Fractal Unit (Unit Project Due) & Unit Project Resubmittals Due

## Communication and Student Feedback Policy

Though we do not have formal course meetings like face-to-face classes do, you are not alone in learning the material. Here's what you can expect in instructor-initiated communication:

- I will post announcement reminders regarding the opening of the next module, on the day discussion/class activity posts are due, and with information about the course and events I think students in this class may be interested in and/or are related to things we have been studying.
- I will be part of the discussion/activity forums, providing prompts, sometimes responding individually through the rubric, and often summarizing themes in announcements. These are graded within 2 weeks of the due date.

- Students receive feedback on online homework instantly.
- Projects will typically be graded within 3 weeks of the due date with feedback given in the rubric.

Communication is a two-way street. Please contact me when you are stuck or have questions about the material or the course you are unable to find answers for. You will NOT be bothering me. I'm here to support your learning. You can reach out to me **anytime** in the following ways:

- Through the Inbox built into Canvas.
- Emailing me at [erin-wall@redwoods.edu](mailto:erin-wall@redwoods.edu).
- Through MyOpenMath assignments using the "Message Instructor" link within your online homework assignment. Be sure to let me know what you tried, you can type that in or send me a photo of your work. I will respond to you within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends through the Canvas Inbox.

Don't forget about communicating with your classmates. You all are resources for each other. Besides the weekly discussion/class activities, there is also the Student Café. You can ask questions of each other there and look at setting up study groups. You can of course use Zoom for meeting up, but there is also Pronto. Pronto is a communication tool built right into Canvas. I don't use it specifically for class, but it does have meeting room capabilities and you are welcome to use it to meet up with each other. More information on Pronto can be found in the Reference Module.

## Fall 2023 Dates

August 18<sup>th</sup>: Last day to register for classes (day before the first class meeting)

August 19<sup>th</sup>: Classes begin

August 25<sup>th</sup>: Last day to add a class

September 1<sup>st</sup>: Last day to drop without a "W" and receive a refund

September 4<sup>th</sup>: Labor Day Holiday (All Campuses Closed)

September 5<sup>th</sup>: Census Date (20% of class)

October 26<sup>th</sup>: Last day to petition to graduate

October 27<sup>th</sup>: Last day for student initiated withdrawal (62.5% of class)

October 27<sup>th</sup>: Last day for faculty initiated withdrawal (62.5% of class)

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Veterans Day (All Campuses Closed)

November 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving break (no classes)

November 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>: No Classes, all campuses closed

December 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>: Final Examinations

December 15<sup>th</sup>: Last day to file for P/NP option

December 15<sup>th</sup>: Semester Ends

December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Grades due

January 5<sup>th</sup>: Grades available

## 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](#).

## **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**

### **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 [My CR Portal](#)

For help logging in to Canvas, visit [My CR Portal](#).

For help with Canvas once you're logged in, click on the Help icon on the left menu.

For tech help, email [its@redwoods.edu](mailto:its@redwoods.edu) or call 707-476-4160

Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course \(instructure.com\)](#)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 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](#)
- [Online Tutoring Resources](#)

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

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)
- [Academic Support Center](#) – offers tutoring and test proctoring for CR students.
- [Student Tech Help](#) – provides students with assistance around a variety of tech problems.

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.
- [CalWORKS](#) – assists student parents with children under the age of 18, who are receiving cash assistance (TANF), to become self-sufficient.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821