

Math 300: Writing for Mathematics

Spring 2019

Instructor: Sherwood Hachtman

email: hachtma1@uic.edu

Course time: M or W (either one) 12-12:50 in Taft Hall 216

Office hours: W 2-3 and F 12-1 in SEO 616, or by appointment.

Course page: <http://math.uic.edu/~shac/math300-S19/>

Text: There is no course text.

Prerequisites: English 161 or equivalent, and C or better in Math 210

Course objectives: The primary objectives of this course are for students to:

- Practice reading and writing mathematical documents
- Learn to use the mathematical typesetting language \LaTeX
- Develop good writing habits and skills
- Become more comfortable processing and organizing ideas

Secondary objectives include improving general English-language grammar and style, gaining confidence and enjoyment in writing, and learning some mathematics.

Grading:

- 40% one major 7-10 page essay, due finals week
- 30% weekly assignments, including: short (1-2 page) essays or solutions to single problems; readings, and listening/video-watching assignments; and outline, drafts, and revisions of the final essay
- 30% participation, including discussion and in-class freewriting activities.

All assignments are graded based on completion.

The final course grade is determined by 10% cutoffs. So 90-100% is an A, 80-89% is a B, and so on, with the following modifiers:

- For each 3 unexcused absences, the grade is reduced by one letter grade.
- Students who commit plagiarism will receive an F in the class.

I intend for things to work out so that if you put in a good-faith effort to the final essay and most assignments, you will get an A.

Homework: I will assign homework most weeks. All written assignments are to be completed using L^AT_EX, and submitted to me by the due date via email (including .pdf, .tex, and supporting image and/or bibliography files).

I have an open-door policy towards homework. This means you are always welcome (encouraged!) to come to my office with a piece of your writing, or send me a draft of an assignment by email, to work together on possible revisions. You may do this as many times as you like, with the caveat that I can only be as responsive as my schedule allows; but I will do my best!

Attendance: Since we only have one course meeting per week, and much of the course is organized around group discussions, attendance is mandatory. You are welcome to attend either M or W course meetings, whichever works. Each 3 classes missed without documented excuse results in a full letter grade reduction in your final grade; for example, missing 6 classes turns an ‘A’ into a ‘C’; missing 5 turns an ‘A’ into a ‘B’.

Special accommodations: Students with disabilities must inform me of the need for accommodations. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at 312/413-2183 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY)

More information at Disability Resource Center: <https://drc.uic.edu/>

Academic integrity: Plagiarism is a serious violation of the UIC student code of conduct, and a violation of your peers’ and my trust. **Any substantiated act of plagiarism, intentional or not, will earn the student in question a failing grade in the class.**

Furthermore, instances of academic misconduct (including cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, threats, examination by proxy) shall be handled pursuant to the student Disciplinary Policy. For more information, see <http://dos.uic.edu/community-standards/>