

Syllabus

MATH2380 – MATHEMATICS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – SPRING 2013

Basic Information

Instructor: Jason B. Hill (Jason.B.Hill@Colorado.edu) Office: MATH340

Class Meetings: MWF 2:00-2:50 MUEN 131

Office Hours: To be determined and posted on the course website.

Course Website: <http://courses.jasonbhill.com>

Text: *Mathematics for the Environment*, by Martin Walter, CRC Press, 2011. For sale in the U.M.C. bookstore.

Other: A handheld calculator (not a cell phone) isn't required, but most students will find one very useful. You may use a cell phone as a calculator, to access Wolfram Alpha, etc. at any time besides on the tests/exam.

Prerequisites: High school level mathematics.

A Little About The Course

A fairly good idea of what this class is about can be obtained by reading the introductory material and looking through the Table of Contents in the text. It is OK if you do not consider yourself "good" at math, so long as you're not proud of that. (I'll explain that comment in class.) You should, however, have some interest in the topics listed in the Table of Contents.

This is an interdisciplinary course with a mathematical perspective. It will require a significant amount of reading, research, writing, and discussion, in addition to the mathematical content. It is a challenging course and requires a significant amount of effort. Those with more mathematical experience have an advantage, but those with only high school level math in their background can and have done well in this course.

Homework and Exams

Homework will be assigned at every class meeting. These problems will be taken from the text as well as written by the instructor. Assignments will be posted on the course website. Due dates will generally be two class periods after being assigned. Homework is due at the beginning of class.

Assignments turned in after class starts are considered late. Assignments turned in within the first day after they are due, should you be able to find me, are worth 50% of their graded value. Assignments turned in within the second day after being due are worth 25%, and so on.

There will be two midterm exams based on the homework. They will be announced two weeks before they occur and a study-guide will be posted on the course website.

Attendance and Discussions

Your participation in class discussions is a part of your grade. You should read the text as assigned and know that material. In addition, it is up to you to research tangential topics (via Google, Wikipedia, blogs, etc.) of interest to you and come prepared to inform your classmates. I'll give an example of this in the second class.

Only **one person** speaks at a time. Do not engage in side conversations while someone else has the floor. Raise your hand, etc.

Because this class is participation based, your attendance is required. As of right now, I do not have an official policy on attendance. Of course, if you are sick, you should not come. In that case, send me an email and inform me of your absence. If repeated absence becomes a problem, I may talk to you or develop a grade policy for the entire class.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Homework – 25%
- Exams – 25%
- Term Project (to be discussed later) – 25%
- Class Participation / Discussions – 25%

Other

Honor Code: Of course, the CU Honor Code applies to this course.

Religious Holidays: Please inform me should you, due to observance of a religious holiday, need to miss an exam, quiz, or homework. It is university policy to be as accommodating as practicable in these circumstances.

Special Needs: Please see me if you have any special needs regarding the taking of exams and so forth. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from the Disability Services Office (within the first two weeks of class). See

<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>