

Math 110: Contemporary Math

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Powell

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Note: Phone messages are automatically sent to my email.

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Textbook: *Math in Society: A Survey of Mathematics for the Liberal Arts Major* by David Lippman. This is a free textbook that is available online in both .pdf and .doc (Word) formats.

You can download it at: <http://www.opentextbookstore.com/mathinsociety/>

Note that we will be using “Edition 2” on that page. You do not have to download the entire book. I will provide links to the relevant chapters at the appropriate time. On the above page, you’ll note that you can also purchase a printed copy at a reasonable cost, if you wish. Purchasing a book is not required.

Adobe Acrobat: You will need the ability to read .pdf documents to take this course. You can download the free Adobe Acrobat reader (if you do not already have it) at: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Class Websites: Two websites will be utilized for this class.

1. <http://moodle.samford.edu> –This is where you can log into our Moodle class site. You will want to start here as it contains important introductory information.
2. <https://www.myopenmath.com> –Most of the work in this course can be found at this site. You will need to register (for free) at this site to begin. Instructions for how to do this are found in the *document name* document in our Moodle class.

Web Browser Requirements: The MyOpenMath site highly recommends using Mozilla Firefox or Internet Explorer (v. 9 or higher) to access the site. If you do not use these, both are downloadable from their respective sites. You may use another web browser, but keep in mind that some fonts and features may not display correctly. You are welcome to try it in your browser of choice to see if you have any issues.

Calculator Use: You will be required to have a calculator which can perform basic arithmetic along with the ability to calculate permutations and combinations. *Most* scientific calculators can do this. If you are unsure, then you can send me information about the calculator you have or are considering for purchase, and I will let you know if it will work. You do not need a graphing calculator.

Course Objectives: My primary objectives for students in this course are:

1. Describe how mathematics can contribute to the solution of problems in the natural world or human society.
2. Employ critical thinking skills, drawing upon prior knowledge when possible, to analyze and explore new and unfamiliar problems
3. Solve problems using algorithms or formulas
4. Communicate methods of solutions and solutions to problems for the clarity of the receiver.
5. Analyze and interpret data, including calculating numerical summaries and reading graphical representations, to propose possible implications

Course Assessments: Your understanding of the material in the course (and your grade) will be based upon several categories of assessments.

- **Topic Quizzes**—Each topic has a quiz associated with it on the MyOpenMath website. These quizzes are taken online, and they contain a variety of problems that cover the main points for that topic.

You are given unlimited attempts to answer each question, and you have no set time limit for these. They are primarily part of the course to give you additional practice and to help you prepare for the Topic Test. See the “Frequently Asked Questions” document to see the exact manner in which these quizzes will be graded. The MyOpenMath site will also allow you to produce an unlimited number of similar practice problems with immediate feedback on their correctness.

- **Topic Tests**—Each of the topics in the course has a test associated with it on the MyOpenMath website. These are very similar to the quizzes except (a) the grading is stricter (i.e. you have a limited number of chances to answer) and (b) you have to complete the test within a certain time limit. The Topic Tests are the primary way to determine if you have understood the material presented in that topic. See the “Frequently Asked Questions” document to see the exact manner in which these tests will be graded.

Note: You must complete the “Topic Quiz” first before taking the “Topic Test.”

- **Final Exam**—The class will conclude with a cumulative final exam to be taken through the MyOpenMath website. As you would expect, you must complete all Topic Tests before taking the Final Exam. The Final Exam will be presented and graded in a manner similar to the Topic Tests.
- **Forum Participation**—As this class is an online class, we don’t get the opportunity to interact with each other in person. However, our class community is very important, and it’s crucial that every student be a part of that community. For this course, this will primarily be achieved through the forums at the MyOpenMath website.

You are required to post some personal information in the “Autobiography Forum” and you are required to be an active part of the Question Forum for each topic. See the “Frequently Asked Questions” document for the definition of participation and the how the participation will be graded.

Grade Percentages: Your grade will be determined as follows:

Forum Participation	5%
Topic Quizzes	20%
Topic Tests	60%
Final Exam	15%

Note: No scores will be dropped!

The lowest letter grade you will receive will be based on the following scale: 90%-100%=A, 80%-89%=B, 70%-79%=C, 60%-69%=D, 0%-59%=F. A plus or minus will be given as appropriate.

Your grade will be determined solely by the *numerical grade* calculated as above using the *points you have earned for the quizzes, forum participation, and tests*.

Important note: You must take the tests, quizzes, and final exam during the days they are available and in the time allotted (if applicable) on the MyOpenMath website. Failure to do this can result in a zero for the assignment. Make sure you understand when assessments are to be completed and the length of time you have to complete them.

Academic Integrity: Please be mindful of Samford University's policy on academic integrity. You can see information on it at: <http://www.samford.edu/studenthandbook/academic-life.aspx?id=21474850027>

Disability Accommodation: If you are registered with Disability Resources (DR) and have your accommodation letter, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to confidentially discuss accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted Disability Resources, please call 726-2980/4078 or visit DR located within Career Development, Room 205 of the University Center.

Students who may need course accommodations are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with Disability Resources, 726-2980/4078, and I must have received an accommodation letter before you begin receiving academic adjustments.

Email: Occasionally, I will send important announcements via email to your Samford account (or to the account you have on file at Samford). According to the Student Handbook, you are responsible for regularly reading this email address.

Topics Covered: Note that objectives for each of these topics are posted on the class MyOpenMath site. Consult the online textbook (at the link on the first page of this document) to see the content for these topics:

- Chapter 1: Problem Solving
- Chapter 8: Growth Models
- Chapter 9: Finance
- Chapter 11: Describing Data
- Chapter 12 (a): Basic Probability
- Chapter 12 (b): Counting Principles