

# MATH 2660

Spring 2018

**Instructor** - Dr. Randall R. Holmes

**Office:** 202 Parker Hall

**Hours:** 11:00 MWF (I will arrive at 11:00 and stay as needed). Other times are available by appointment.

**Phone:** 844-6571

**E-mail:** holmerr@auburn.edu

**Course website:** <https://web.auburn.edu/holmerr/2660>

**Textbook** There is no required textbook for the course. The course material will be based on the lectures and some online notes that I have prepared (see Course website).

## Exams and point allocation

Exam 1 (Feb 9)	100
Exam 2 (Mar 9)	100
Exam 3 (Apr 16)	100
Quizzes*	100
Final Exam (8am, May 1)	<u>200</u>
	600

\*The quiz score is adjusted to track with the exam score. See the explanation below.

**Homework** The ongoing homework assignment is for you to read (and reread) the course materials. A goal of the course is to improve your understanding of written mathematics. Careful reading of the materials will help with this. I recommend that you keep a bit ahead of the lectures in your reading. This will give you practice understanding things from the writing alone. You should also study the comments I write on your quizzes as well as study the solutions after they are posted. Even if you get full credit on a problem, you will likely learn something by reading my solution.

**Quizzes** Quizzes are to be completed outside of class entirely on your own using only the online textbook at the course website and any notes that you write down from the lectures.

In particular, you may not receive any help from other students, from tutors, or even from me (though I am available for help in understanding the course material, of course), and you should not seek out solutions in other textbooks or online. Obviously, you may not use previously posted solutions.

Violations of this policy will be reported to the university Academic Honesty Committee. See Chapter 1202 of the following document for possible sanctions that the committee might impose:

<https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/policies/academichonestycode.pdf> .

The quizzes, in addition to being learning experiences, are intended to test your understanding of the material as well as your ability to work out some solutions that require more time than can be allotted during an hourly exam.

*Quiz Score Adjustment:* Points on the quizzes will not add up to 100, but at the end of the semester the total will be scaled to 100. This scaled total will then be adjusted, if necessary, so that it does not exceed 1.4 times your overall exam percentage (including the three exams and the final). Here are some examples:

Exams	( $\times 1.4$ )	Quizzes	Adjusted Quizzes
85	(119)	100	100
70	(98)	95	95
55	(77)	75	75
50	(70)	90	70

The adjusted quiz score is the minimum of the numbers in the two middle columns. Note that the adjustment has an effect only in the last example where the exam average is low (50) and the quiz average is high (90). Such a disparity should not arise as long as no shortcuts are taken with the quizzes.

Quizzes will be posted at the website. When a new quiz appears you will receive an e-mail message saying that the quiz has been posted.

Quizzes are due at the start of the class hour on the due date. Unexcused late quizzes will receive at most half credit.

Selected quiz problems will be graded carefully (these will be circled on the graded quiz). The scores on the remaining problems will be based mostly on whether you made a good attempt. If you receive little or no feedback on a particular problem, do not assume that you did it correctly. Rather, take a moment to check your solution against the posted solution to be sure you understand.

**Missed exams** If you are unable to attend an exam due to illness or family emergency you will be given a make-up exam provided you notify me *before* the

start of the exam (via e-mail or phone) and later provide me with a verifiable written excuse. Under no circumstances will a make-up exam be given if you simply show up at the next class and say you missed the exam.

**Grades** The grading scale is

90 – 100 %	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

If for a given exam I find that it is warranted, I will draw a curve with lower cutoffs than are indicated here.

**Attendance** University policy states that students are expected to attend class sessions. If you need to miss a session, please send me an e-mail message explaining the absence.

**Contingency plans** If normal class activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, jury duty, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to the syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.