Basic format of this course

New material will be introduced during the second half of each class, with me doing some talking and you doing a lot of thinking. Not all material will be covered.

Most of the homework will be submitted and graded through WebAssign (see other side of this handout), but solve the problems on paper, and keep your paper solutions! Note which problems you have good solutions for, and which problems you would like to go over in class.

Before starting each WebAssign assignment, read through the corresponding section of the textbook. Not all of the material appearing on the homework will be introduced in class. Reading and understanding mathematics is one very important skill you are learning in this course.

One significantly more difficult "Thinking Question" will be assigned in addition to each WebAssign problem set. Write down a careful explanation of your solution and submit it on paper in class. If you cannot solve the problem, write up and submit all ideas you have. Working on these problems will give you a deeper understanding of the mathematics we are learning, even if you do not solve them completely. Tackling problems that you do not immediately know how to solve is another very important skill you are learning in this course. Each of the four tests will include one problem of this difficulty.

As you are reading the book, working through the WebAssign problem sets, and thinking about the Thinking Question, write down any questions you have. Discuss these questions with friends, ask them in class, bring them to office hours.

During the first half of the following class, we will go over some of the homework problems and I will answer some of your questions. Come prepared to request and provide homework problem solutions!

Once most (hopefully, all) of your questions about a particular section have been resolved, read through the section one more time. Take notes for yourself, listing important ideas: new concepts, algorithms for solving particular kinds of problems, common mistakes to avoid. These notes will later help you study for the tests and especially for the final exam. To help you get used to the time pressure of the tests, I will hand out take-home quizzes for each section; you should be able to do them in 15 minutes. I will not collect and grade them, but if you bring your solutions to office hours, I will explain how your solutions would have been graded on a test.

Office hours. (Tuesday 12:30-1:30, Thursday 6-7, or by appointment.)

Bring your questions to office hours: questions about the math we are learning, about the math you learned long ago, or about math unrelated to this class. I will explain ideas, work problems, walk you through solving problems, and do everything I can to help you learn! Don't miss out on free personal tutoring!