

## Math 238 Notebook Guidelines

Field Spring 2013

Here are the rules for homework in this course:

**Rule 1.** You will have to do a lot of homework to succeed in this course.

**Rule 2.** I am not going to collect or grade your homework, though WeBWork assignments will be graded.

**Rule 3.** It is your responsibility to decide which problems to do, and how many.

**Rule 4.** Your Homework Notebook can be used on some quizzes and tests.

**Rule 5.** Everything in your Notebook must be handwritten by you; no loose papers.

**Rule 6.** The **minimum** that you should do for each section is:

SUMMARY	at least three pages of notes from the reading
CLASS NOTES	notes from class
PROBLEMS	at least one hard problem of each (non-computer) type in that section, more if that problem was difficult for you

**The WeBWork assignments will cover some, but not all of the types of problems from the book.  
The suggested problems on the course website will cover more, but still not all.**

**Tips and tricks for success:**

- Before class, read and take notes on the section according to the class schedule. Notice which of the parts you find difficult and ask questions in class if they are not cleared up to your satisfaction.
- Be sure to include definitions and theorems in your Notebook for easy reference.
- That evening, read the section again, make sure can compute all of the examples on your own.
- Work on problems you *don't* already know how to do, even though that is sometimes less fun than practicing what you are already good at.
- Try all of the suggested problems.
- If you can't figure out where to start on a problem, try to find an example in the text that is similar.
- After getting the solution to a problem, check your answer in the back of the book. If you are correct, more on. If not, try again. If your mistake was more than just an arithmetic error, note this and try another odd problem of the same type.
- If you still can't do a problem after these stages, ask for help. Some options for help are asking a classmate, coming to office hours or making an appointment, asking about the problem during class and going to the Science and Math Learning Center (Roop 200).
- When you review for an exam or quiz, be sure to review the problems you had trouble with initially.
- The majority of quiz and test problems will come directly from the homework with only slight modifications.
- All homework problems (**not just the suggested problems**) are fair game for quizzes and tests unless I say otherwise in class.
- If you want your Notebook to be useful on quizzes and tests you will have to do more than just list the answers; you will have to include more complete solutions and also write out the problem itself.
- If you are doing poorly in the class and have not been doing the minimum amount of homework then there is an obvious answer to the question "what can I do to improve my grade?"
- You are expected to bring your Notebook to class every day.
- If you run out of space in your notebook, you may continue in a second notebook.