

Math 102

Problem Solving

INSTRUCTOR: BEN SALISBURY

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00pm-2:00pm and Tuesday 12:30pm-1:30pm or by appointment

Meeting Times: Section 1: MWF 8:00-8:50am in ARJ 245
 Section 3: MWF 9:00-9:50am in ARJ 243

Text: *Problem Solving*, 2nd edition, Defanco and Vinsonhaler

GENERAL INFORMATION

Goals: The basic goal is to foster problem solving skills that can be applied throughout the college experience and the rest of your life.

Expectations: First, you are expected to come to class. I will not do much lecturing - you will be working on problems. You are responsible for everything that happens in class. If you miss a class, you are expected to find out what happened, either from me or from one of your classmates. Second, you should expect to do much of your learning outside the classroom, generally spending around 6-8 hours a week working on this class. *Problem Solving*, like most subjects, is learned by doing. Most of all, it is expected that you will get excited about what you are learning and take delight in your own, perhaps unexpected, ability to solve intriguing problems.

Homework: Homework will be assigned, collected and graded each week. *No late homework will be accepted!* Homework is to be done outside of class and we will not devote extensive class time to the discussion of homework problems. Your written work is expected to be neat, accurate and contain written explanations using full sentences and standard English. It is easier to grade (and award credit for) typed work, so all homework must be typed (there are templates for homework posted on the website mentioned below). All work must be shown; an answer without an explanation is not worth any credit. In the event you cannot complete an assignment, it is your responsibility to get help. You can come to my office, work with other students, send me email, or use any reasonable method to figure out how to complete your assignments. Please be familiar with UConn's policy on Academic Integrity.

Group Projects: You will be assigned projects during the semester to be worked on in groups. One write-up will be submitted for each group. Projects will be graded on accuracy, creativity and presentation. We will begin the projects in class, but frequently additional time outside of class will be required to complete them. Groups will be asked to present their project solutions to class.

Grading: The two exams will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester. No make-up exams will be given. If an emergency arises and you must miss an exam, you are responsible for notifying me before the exam or you will not get credit for that exam.

Exam 1	12.5%
Exam 2	12.5%
Homework	50.0%
Project	12.5%
Final Exam	12.5%

Students with disabilities: Inform me as soon as possible of any special needs that you may have. You will be expected to bring in a letter from the Center of Students with Disabilities within the first two weeks of class. The sooner you notify us, the better I will be able to accommodate you.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Dates	Material	Assignments
1	1/23 - 1/25	Chapters 1,2 - Problem Solving, PSSSP	Heap Letter
2	1/28 - 2/1	Chapter 3 - Be Proactive	Symmetry
3	2/4 - 2/8	Chapter 4 - See it	Prom Problem
4	2/11 - 2/15	Chapter 4 - See it, Chapter 5 - Simplify it	Parking Lot
5	2/18 - 2/22	Chapter 5 - Simplify it, EXAM 1	Forty Thieves
6	2/25 - 2/29	Chapter 6 - Stir it up	Should you switch?
7	3/3 - 3/7	Chapter 6 - Stir it up	Faculty Debts
8	3/17 - 3/21	Chapter 7 - Pause and Reflect	Grilled Cheese
9	3/24 - 3/28	Chapter 8,9 - Interpersonal, Communication	Grappling with Groups
10	3/31 - 4/4	Estimation	Maple Tree
11	4/7 - 4/11	Review and EXAM 2	
12	4/14 - 4/18	Revisit PSSSP and work on Final Project	House Hunt
13	4/21 - 4/25	Revisit PSSSP and review for Final Exam	Sessa's Wheat
14	4/28 - 5/2	Presentations	

WEBSITE

The website will be an integral part of the course. The homework assignments will be posted on the site, and so will important links (if any), a copy of this syllabus, relevant handouts (again, if any), and some templates in MS Word (.doc) format for doing the homework. Thus it would be a good idea to make the page one of your bookmarks for the semester in order to check it regularly.