NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DUBLIN, VIRGINIA  

COURSE PLAN

Course Number and Title: MTH 151 – Mathematics for the Liberal Arts I

Prepared by: Math Department Fall, 2013
(Date)

Approved by: (Interim Dean) Fall, 2013
(Date)

I. Course Description

Presents topics in sets, logic, numeration systems, geometric systems, and elementary computer concepts. Prerequisites: a placement recommendation for MTH 151 and Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry, or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

II. Introduction

This course is intended for transfer students in majors other than sciences, business, engineering, and other mathematics related areas. It fulfills the requirements for two-year student in Computer Information Systems.

This is a survey course. The emphasis will be on five major topics: approaches to problem solving, sets, logic, mathematical systems, and geometric systems.

III. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Solve application problems by interpreting the materials presented, including determining the nature and extent of the information needed, and present the answer in standard English.
2. Estimate and consider answers to mathematical problems in order to determine reasonableness.
3. Distinguish between deductive and inductive reasoning.
4. Determine the most probable next term in a list of numbers.
5. Use inductive reasoning to predict the next equation in a list.
6. Use the method of Gauss to find sums.
7. Use successive differences to determine the next number in the sequence.
8. Use formulas to find sums.
9. Use formulas to find numbers in a pattern.
10. Use strategies for problem solving.
11. Perform basic calculator operations.
12. Estimate answers to problems.
13. Interpret pie charts, bar graphs, and line graphs.
15. Find natural number factors.
16. Use divisibility tests.
17. Find prime factorization.
18. Distinguish perfect and amicable numbers.
19. Determine whether numbers are abundant or deficient.
20. Write even numbers as the sum of two primes.
22. Describe the Fibonacci sequence and the golden ratio.
23. Use the Fibonacci sequence to predict the next equation in a list.
24. Describe sets, list elements and use set-builder notation.
25. Identify finite and infinite sets.
26. Find n(A) for each set.
27. Use set symbols.
28. Determine whether two sets are equal, equivalent, both, or neither.
29. Identify subsets and proper subsets.
30. Find the number of subsets and proper subsets.
31. List the subsets of a set.
32. Find complements of sets.
33. Find intersections, unions, and complements of given sets.
34. Describe sets in words.
35. Find Cartesian products.
36. Use Venn diagrams to find intersections, unions, and complements.
37. Write descriptions of Venn diagrams.
38. Give cardinality of unions, intersections, and Venn diagram regions.
40. Analyze transformation geometry.
41. Analyze non-Euclidean geometry, topology, and networks.
42. Analyze chaos and fractal geometry.
43. Identify statements.
44. Write negations of statements containing quantifiers.
45. Use Euler diagrams to determine whether an argument is valid or invalid.
46. Identify compound statements.
47. Convert between statements and symbols.
48. Find truth values of compound statements.
49. Construct truth tables.
50. Use conjunction, disjunction, and exclusive disjunction.
51. Use De Morgan’s Laws to negate compound statements.
52. Tell whether conditionals are true or false.
53. Write converse, inverse, or contrapositive.
54. Write “if …, then …” statements.
55. Tell whether biconditionals are true or false.
56. Negate conditional statements.
57. Rewrite a conditional as a disjunction.
58. Use truth tables to decide whether a pair of statements is equivalent.
59. Use a truth table to decide whether an argument is valid or invalid.
60. Use computer logic to add binary numbers.
61. Convert historic numerations to Hindu-Arabic form and vice versa.
62. Perform arithmetic operations within historic numeration systems.
63. Use the Egyptian algorithm to find products.
64. Write numbers in expanded form.
65. Simplify numbers in expanded form.
66. Add and subtract in expanded form.
67. Identify numbers represented on abaci.
68. Use the lattice method, Napier’s rods, and the Russian peasant method to find products.
69. Use the nines complement method to perform subtractions.
70. Practice basics of different numeric bases.
71. Convert between decimal form and other bases.
72. Convert between non-decimal bases.
73. Perform clock arithmetic.
74. Perform modular arithmetic.
75. Solve problems using modular arithmetic.

IV. Instructional Methods

The instructional procedures will include lectures, discussions, problem sessions, in class work, homework, reviews and tests.

V. Instructional Materials

Textbook: Mathematical Ideas, 12th Edition
Miller, Heeren, and Hornsby

Software: MyMathLab
Textbook and MyMathLab together: ISBN 9780321759917

Calculator: A calculator with algebraic logic. TI 30XIIS preferred.

VI. Course Content

- Problem Solving
- Number Theory
- Set Theory
- Geometry
- Logic
- Numeration and Mathematical Systems

VII. Evaluation

The grade for the course will be calculated from Tests, MyMathLab assignments, a final exam and other work as deemed appropriate by the instructor. See individual syllabus for details on percentages/points.

VIII. Attendance

Regular attendance at classes is required. When absence from a class becomes necessary, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor prior to the absence whenever possible. The student is responsible for the subsequent completion of all study
missed during an absence. Any instruction missed and not subsequently completed will necessarily affect the grade of the student regardless of the reason for the absence.

IX. **Cheating Policy**

A grade of zero will be awarded to any writing assignments or tests that show cheating or plagiarism. To plagiarize is “To use and pass off as one’s own the ideas or writings of another.” (Definition adapted from the American Heritage Dictionary.) Remember that plagiarism includes lifting words or ideas from Internet sites, as well as copying from print sources.

The giving or receiving of any help or using any unauthorized electronic device on any test is considered cheating and will not be tolerated. Any student found cheating will receive a grade of “0” on that portion and possibly an “F” for the course. This “0” will not be replaced by any other score.

X. **Withdrawal Policy**

**Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy**

A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first 60 percent of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

a. If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.

b. After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of 60 percent of a session, a student who withdraws from a class will be assigned a grade of “W.” A grade of “W” implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the class at the time of withdrawal, that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.

c. After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of “F” or “U” will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance.

A retroactive grade of “W” may be awarded only if the student would have been eligible under the previously stated policy to receive a “W” on the last date of class attendance. The last date of attendance for a distance education course will be the last date that work was submitted.

Late withdrawal appeals will be reviewed and a decision made by the Director of Student Services.

**No-Show Policy**

A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in distance learning courses by the last date to drop for a refund. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as
a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to
attend/participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a
course will adversely impact a student’s financial aid award.

Instructor Initiated Withdrawal

A student who adds a class or registers after the first day of class is counted absent from
all class meetings missed. Each instructor is responsible for keeping a record of student
attendance (face-to-face classes) or performance/participation (DE classes) in each class
throughout the semester.

When a student’s absences equal twice the number of weekly meetings of a class
(equivalent amount of time for summer session), the student may be dropped for
unsatisfactory attendance in the class by the instructor.

Since attendance is not a valid measurement for Distance Education (DE) courses, a
student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her DE
course plan for the instructor’s policy.

In accordance with the No-Show Policy, a student who has not attended class or
requested/accessed distance learning materials by the last day to drop the class and
receive a refund must be withdrawn by the instructor during the following week. No
refund will be applicable.

When an instructor withdraws a student for unsatisfactory attendance (face-to-face class)
or non-performance (DE class), the last date of attendance/participation will be
documented. Withdrawal must be completed within five days of a student’s meeting the
withdrawal criteria. A grade of “W” will be recorded during the first sixty percent (60%)
period of a course. A student withdrawn after the sixty percent (60%) period will receive
a grade of “F” or “U” except under documented mitigating circumstances when a letter of
appeal has been submitted by the student. A copy of this documentation must be placed
in the student’s academic file.

The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office.
An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor.

XI. Disability and Diversity Statements

If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodation in this
course, please register with the Disability Services Office located in the Counseling
Center for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

The NRCC community values the pluralistic nature of our society. We recognize
diversity including, but not limited to, race ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, age,
gender, sexual orientation and physical or mental capability. We respect the variety of
ideas, experiences and practices that such diversity entails. It is our commitment to
ensure equal opportunity and to sustain a climate of civility for all who work or study at
NRCC or who otherwise participate in the life of the college.