

Math 2800 Intro to Discrete Structures Sections 1-8
Grading and Other Policies

The **advance grade** for the course is based on everything prior to the final exam. The **course grade** is your final grade for the course.

The advance grade will be computed as follows. There will be a choice for how the exams are weighted against the quizzes in the advance grade:

Option 1:

75 % exams (25 % each)

25 % quizzes

Option 2:

90 % exams (30 % each)

10 % quizzes

The advance grade will be computed both ways, and the highest of the two will be used.

The final exam will be required for everyone, and must be taken **AT THE TIME AND LOCATION ASSIGNED** unless an excuse is approved and verified by the Dean of Students Office.

The course grade will be determined in whichever of the following two ways produces the highest grade:

(A) course grade = 80 % advance grade and 20 % Final Exam

(B) course grade = 60 % advance grade and 40 % Final Exam

The idea is that a good performance on the final exam can help you substantially whereas a single bad day on the final won't destroy your course grade utterly.

Calculators are not permitted for in-class exams or quizzes. Each exam, including the final exam, will be worth 105 points but will be counted as if it were a 100-point exam. There will be no other curve on the exams and no curve on the quizzes. Thus, the course grade will be obtained numerically based on the scheme described above, and letter grades will be computed as follows:

$\geq 93 = A$

$90 - 92 = A -$

$87 - 89 = B +$

$83 - 86 = B$

$80 - 82 = B -$

$76 - 79 = C +$

$70 - 75 = C$

$65 - 69 = C -$

$60 - 64 = D +$

55 – 59 = *D*

< 55 = *F*

Additional Course Policies and Information:

1. **Course Learning Objectives:** The learning objectives for this course are as follow. The student should learn the content of all the required sections for the course, which will be specified as the course unfolds. The student should develop a proficiency in constructing logical and mathematical arguments.

2. Homework Assignments

Every few weeks, a set of homework problems will be given out. While these problems will not be collected, you are expected to work all of the current problems prior to your weekly recitation so you will be prepared for discussion of those problems, and ultimately for the quizzes which will focus on ideas from the HW problems.

3. **Quizzes:** There will be a short quiz given at the beginning of most recitations. It will usually consist of one or two problems from material discussed during the previous week's recitation, and will last about 10-15 minutes. At the end of each recitation, your recitation instructor will remind you what next week's quiz will cover. If you miss a quiz without a documented excuse, you will receive a zero and will not be permitted to make the quiz up.

4. **Academic Integrity on Exams and Quizzes:** All work submitted in a quiz or exam must be your own. Collaborating on a quiz or examination is not permitted. Academic dishonesty may result in an exam or quiz grade of zero and a report to the Dean of Students. Additional penalties may be imposed and can be harsh; check the section on Academic Integrity in the Rensselaer Student Handbook.

5. **Make-Up Exams:** If you must miss an exam because of a prior obligation, you must speak to me about it IN ADVANCE of the exam. If you miss an exam for an unforeseen but valid reason (e.g., illness) you must inform me within 24 hours of the exam time and obtain a WRITTEN EXCUSE (from medical professional or Dean of Students) or the infirmary must confirm your illness. If you miss an exam WITHOUT a valid excuse (e.g., your alarm didn't go off, etc.) you will be given a make-up only if you inform me within 24 hours, and you will automatically lose 15 points off the top.

6. **Contesting Grades and Retrieving Graded Work:** If you wish to contest a graded exam or assignment, you must speak to your recitation instructor within **one week** of the date the assignment is first returned in class. After this deadline, the grade will be final. Also, if your work is not picked up within one week of the date the assignment is returned in class, you forfeit all rights to contest the grade.