

If people do not believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is. —John Louis von Neumann

Class meeting room and time: Darwin 103, MW 2:25–3:45.

Instructor: Ben Ford

- **Office:** Darwin 114B
- **Phone:** 664-2472
- **email:** ben.ford@sonoma.edu
- **Office hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 1:30–2:20 in the Math Lab, Darwin 108; or by appointment.

Required Materials:

- **Text:** *Finite Mathematics and its Applications*, ninth edition, by Goldstein, Schneider, and Siegel.
- **Student remote:** i>Clicker remote, available at bookstore.
- **Webassign account** for online homework.

Course description. According to the catalog, this course is “designed to give students an understanding of finite mathematics applied in the modern world to social sciences, economic analysis, statistical analysis, and decision making. Topics include linear models, linear programming, financial mathematics, sets, combinatorics, probability, and statistics.”

We will focus on the application of mathematics to real-world problems. We will cover at least chapters 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10 from the book.

Reading the text. You must do the readings as they are assigned. I am amazed that this somehow has become unexpected in Mathematics classes — imagine attending a literature seminar without doing the reading *before* attending the class at which it will be discussed!

Class may begin each day with some questions from the reading for you to answer with your clickers.

Exams and Quizzes: In all exams you may use two letter-size pages (total of 187 square inches) of notes in your own handwriting (no printed or copied material).

There will be exams on October 1 and November 5, in addition to the final exam, which is 2:00–3:50 p.m. on Monday, December 15, in our regular classroom.

Homework: All homework will be completed and submitted online through your WebAssign account.

Writing: All GE Mathematics courses include a writing component. Writing is important (even in a Mathematics class!) because it focuses the mind and heightens understanding and analytical skill; “Writing is nature’s way of telling you that you don’t understand.” There will be a writing project assigned later in the semester.

Grading. 30% final, 40% tests, 10% homework, 10% in-class participation, 5% writing project.

Any test, quiz, or homework submission that is not finished on or before the scheduled time counts as a zero. **There will be no makeups.** However, the grade on the final may be used in place of the lowest score on a test, and your two lowest (by percentage) homework assignments will be dropped.