

**MA 102A  
CONTEMPORARY MATHEMATICS**

**Instructor:** Dr. Marcie K. Davis

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**Course Content:** Uses of mathematical modeling and logical thinking in problem solving. Applications to include aspects of finance, voting theory, geometry and statistics.

**Course Goals and Requirements:** The aim of this course is to increase students' knowledge of and competency with mathematical concepts encountered in daily living. An additional aim of this course is to increase students' critical thinking skills and make them better problem solvers. The specific requirements of this course are outlined below.

**Text:** *Topics in Contemporary Mathematics*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, by Bello, Britton and Kaul.

**Calculator:** A scientific calculator is required.

**Boyce College Attendance Policy (see Boyce College catalog):**

Class attendance is required for Boyce College students. Attendance will be checked at each class session. A student who misses more than 25% of class meetings will forfeit credit for the class and receive a failing grade. Students are also expected to be in class on time. If a student is late to class three times it will count the same as an absence. If a student has a legitimate reason for missing class for an extended period of time (such as an illness or accident) it is the student's responsibility to notify the professor, **in a timely manner**, so that missed tests and assignments may be made up. Also, it is the student's responsibility to contact classmates to receive notes/announcements missed in class before the next class meeting.

**Classroom Policies:**

1. Male students are not to wear hats or facial jewelry in class. Women may wear earrings but no additional facial jewelry.
2. No food or drinks are allowed in class, except water.
3. In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
4. For instructional purposes the professor may employ the use of film, readings, and outside guests, however, this use does not constitute an endorsement by Boyce College of these sources.

**Course Components (please be aware that the dates listed below, excluding the final exam, are subject to change):**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sections Covered</b>	<b>Points</b>
Exam #1	2-16	Chapters 5-7	100
Exam #2	3-9	Chapter 12	100
Exam #3	4-6	Chapters 3, 8, 14	100
Final Exam	4-27	Above + Chapter 13	125
Homework/Quizzes			125
Project			50
<b>Total Points Possible</b>			<b>600</b>

**Grading Scale:** By keeping track of your scores, you can easily tally your final grade.

<b>Points</b>	<b>Grade</b>
540-600	A (90-100%)
480-539	B (80-89%)
420-479	C (70-79%)
360-419	D (60-69%)
359 & below	F (59% or below)

**Exams:** Exam problems will be very similar to homework/quiz problems, so it is important to keep up with your assignments. Only in the case of an excused absence with appropriate documentation **and** timely notification can missed exams be rescheduled. (Timely notification being prior to the exam day, or in the case of an emergency, as soon as you are able to call or email).

**Homework/Quizzes:** Homework problems will be assigned for each section covered. Homework is to be completed and brought to class when it is due, though it will not always be collected. When it is collected, you will receive full credit for at least attempting all of the problems. Homework may be turned in up to one week late for 80% of the original point value. Quizzes may be given periodically and will most likely be unannounced. Quiz problems will be extremely similar to those assigned for homework. Missed quizzes may not be made up, except as described in the absence policy.

**Project:** There will be one mandatory group project assigned worth 50 points. Details will be given at a later date.

**Ecampus:** It is the student's responsibility to check ecampus weekly for handouts, assignments, and announcements. It is also the student's responsibility to ensure that the email address registered to him/her on ecampus is active and to check that email account prior to class each week.

**Additional Expectations: WORK HARD!** Most of you will need to spend 6 hours outside of class each week studying and doing homework. **SPEAK UP!** Please feel free to ask questions at any point during class lectures. **HAVE FUN!** (Yes, you read that correctly!) Math is not about memorizing formulas—it's about learning how to think.