



The Nature of Mathematics

#BiolaMath

MATH 120 – Spring 2020

Syllabus Summary



Instructor: Mr. Matthew Weathers
matthew.weathers@biola.edu

Class web site: <http://math.biola.edu/math120> (*Syllabus and general info*)

Canvas site: <https://canvas.biola.edu> (*Online grades, HW, and quizzes*)

The class web site will have information and instructions, with links to other things you need. I will also use your @biola.edu email as a way of sending class announcements and reminders.

My contact information:

By e-mail: matthew.weathers@biola.edu

By Phone: Cell phone: (562) 322-7427 (*OK to text/call 24hrs, I silence it when busy/asleep*)
Biola ext. 3277 or (562) 944-0351, ext. 3277 (*My Biola office*)

Math Dept. secretary: Peggy Giboney, Biola ext. 4741 or (562) 903-4741

Offices: Math Department, Lim Science Building #141. My office is in Grove #10A.

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30–2:45 p.m.; Lim Science Building #043 (downstairs)

My goals: By the end of the semester, I hope to teach you:

1. An appreciation for the elegance and beauty of mathematics.
2. Some fundamental concepts in various branches of mathematics.
3. An introduction to some core quantitative reasoning skills.
4. To appreciate the historical and conceptual development of mathematics by studying some broad aspects of its history.
5. To gain insight into how mathematics interacts with philosophy and theology, as well as some other disciplines such as art, literature, science, behavioral economics, and astronomy.

Grading Scale

25% Homework (23 Assignments).

8% Quizzes/Participation (about 19 throughout the semester; I drop the lowest 3).

7% Online Group Discussions (7 throughout the semester; about every other week)

10% Paper on the 80-page novel *Flatland* (700-900 words), due March 24.

Or: Creative Option – more details on Canvas.

50% Test 1, Chapters 1-6, February 4. *Best three test scores out of four.*

Test 2, Chapters 8-11,13, February 27.

Test 3, Chapters 14-19, April 9.

Test 4, Chapters 21-26, May 5, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

(See <http://studenthub.biola.edu/finals> for Final Exam Week schedule.)

I will drop your lowest test score. These tests are not cumulative; I will not give you a cumulative final exam. Test 4 will take place during finals week, but will count the same as the other tests. See the schedule on page 3 for due dates of the 23 homework assignments. Homework turned in late but before the next test is 20% off. **No homework accepted after day of test for those chapters.** There is a 10% penalty for each day late for the *Flatland* paper.

Full Syllabus: This is just a summary – see Canvas for an [online copy](#) of the official, full syllabus.

Required Texts: (These are both also available online for free)

Drawn to Infinity Coursepack written by Walt Stangl and Dave Carlson. Available only in the Biola Bookstore (\$25.73), used books okay. Also [on Canvas](#) online for free in PDF format. *Flatland*, by Edwin A. Abbott, a short novel available [free online](#) (Or \$3.27 in the bookstore.)

Calendar of Lectures and Tests: (Not Homework Due Dates)

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1	Jan 14 – Lecture Ch 1	Jan 16 – Lecture Ch 2
2	Jan 21 – Lecture Ch 3	Jan 23 – Lecture Ch 4
3	Jan 28 – Lecture Ch 5	Jan 30 – Lecture Ch 6, QR-A
4	Feb 4 – TEST 1 (Ch 1 – 6)	Feb 6 – Lecture Ch 8
5	Feb 11 – Lecture Ch 9	Feb 13 – Lecture Ch 10
6	Feb 18 – Lecture Ch 11	Feb 20 – Ch 13, QR-B
7	Feb 25 – More Ch 13, Review	Feb 27 – TEST 2(Ch 8–11,13)
Spring Break February 29–March 8, 2020		
8	Mar 10 – Lecture Ch 14	Mar 12 – Lecture Ch 16
9	Mar 17 – Lecture Ch 15	Missions Conf March 18 – 20
10	Mar 24 – Ch 17 – Paper Due	Mar 26 – Lecture Ch 18
11	Mar 31 – Lecture QR-C	April 2 – Ch 19
12	April 7 – Review	April 9 – TEST 3 (Ch 14–19)
13	April 14 – Lecture Ch 22	April 16 – Lecture Ch 23
14	April 21 – Lecture Ch 24	April 23 – Lecture Ch 25
15	April 28 – Lecture Ch 26	April 30 – Lecture Ch 21
Finals	May 5 – Test 4 (Ch 21–26), Tuesday, 12:30 p.m.	

Final exam schedule: <http://studenthub.biola.edu/finals> or see your schedule on myaccount.biola.edu

Homework: Write your name and chapter number legibly. Staple pages together, or write your name on each sheet. Do not staple multiple chapters together. **Show your work** when you can. Some answers are in the book for your reference, but you will not get credit for just copying the answers. Draw a box around each answer. Left edge of paper should be straight (no ragged edges from notebook). Some homework will be turned in electronically, on Canvas.

During Tests: You may use a calculator, but not a cell phone calculator. No music. Tests are a mix of multiple-choice, fill in the blank and short problems. They last 75 minutes, and have about 45 questions. See Appendix 4 in the coursepack textbook for sample questions. Make-up tests are online.

Biola’s Official [Academic Honesty Policy](#): We are committed at Biola University to ethical practice in teaching, scholarship, and service. As such, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please see the undergraduate/graduate student handbook and/or the departmental / program / school policy on academic honesty. It is imperative that you present all written, oral, and/or performed work with a clear indication of the source of that work. If it is completely your own, you are encouraged to present it as such, taking pleasure in ownership of your own created work. However, it is also imperative that you give full credit to any and all others whose work you have included in your presentation via paraphrase, direct quotation, and/or performance, citing the name(s) or the author(s) / creator(s) and the source of the work with appropriate bibliographic information. To do otherwise is to put oneself in jeopardy of being sanctioned for an act or acts of plagiarism that can carry serious consequences up to and including expulsion from the university.

Homework Due Dates & Point Values

You can use this schedule to help yourself keep track of when homework and online discussions are due. I recommend putting these dates, the test dates, and the paper due date on your calendar.

	Chapter	Due Date	Points		Online Discussion Due Dates
Test 1	1	Jan 16 Online	15	Green: Submit answers online on Canvas	Introductions First Post - Jan 16 Discussion #1 Initial Post - Jan 23 Responses - Jan 25 Discussion #2 Initial Post - Feb 6 Responses - Feb 8 Discussion #3 Initial Post - Feb 20 Responses - Feb 22 Discussion #4 Initial Post - Mar 12 Responses - Mar 14 Discussion #5 Initial Post - Apr 2 Responses - Apr 4 Discussion #6 Initial Post - Apr 16 Responses - Apr 18 Optional Makeup #7 Initial Post - May 5
	2	Jan 21	14		
	3	Jan 23 Online	9	Yellow: Turn in paper copy in class.	
	4	Jan 28	11		
	5	Jan 30	10	Last Day to turn in any late homework, Ch 1-6 is Feb 4	
	6	Feb 04	9		
Test 2	QR-A	Feb 04	7	Last Day to turn in any late homework, Ch 8-11,13 is Feb 27	
	8	Feb 11	12		
	9	Feb 13 Online	15	Last Day to turn in any late homework, Ch 14-18 is Apr 9	
	10	Feb 18	16		
	11	Feb 20	14	No Homework	
	QR-B	Feb 25 Online	6		
Test 3	13	Feb 27	12	No Homework	
	14	Mar 12 Online	15		
	16	Paper Due Mar 24		Last Day to turn in any late homework, Ch 21-26 is May 5	
	15	Mar 24 Online	11		
	17	Mar 26 Online	16	No Homework	
	18	Mar 31 Online	12		
Test 4	19	No Homework		No Homework	
	QR-C	Apr 07	21		
	21	No Homework		No Homework	
	22	Apr 16 Online	14		
	23	Apr 21 Online	12	No Homework	
	24	Apr 23 Online	13		
25	Apr 28	21	No Homework		
26	Apr 30 Online	15			

If you turn in a homework assignment late, there is a 20% penalty. You cannot turn in a homework assignment after the day of the test for that section. However, I will not take 20% off for the first two assignments you turn in late during the semester, just as long as it is still before you take the test.

About half of the homework assignments are listed as “Online” assignments. Do the homework on paper, as usual, but don’t turn in the paper. Instead, type in your answers on Canvas. You will be able to see your grade immediately (and re-do for more points). For non-online homework, turn in your homework on paper, and we will grade it and within a week or two; you will see your score on Canvas.

There are about 19 **Quizzes** but I will drop your 3 lowest scores. This is how I track attendance. (You must attend the entire 75-min class period to get credit). Most quizzes will be via cell phone text messages, so you may want to store this number in your cell phone: **Math 120 Quiz # (562) 379-3325** (I will have a paper option if do not have a phone or you cannot text.)

Students desiring accommodations on the basis of physical, learning, or psychological disability please contact the [Learning Center](#) (x4542) located in room U137, on the upper level of the library.

The **Flatland Paper** is worth 10% of the grade. [See Canvas](#) for full assignment prompt.

This paper should be **between 700 and 900** words long, and is due **March 24, 2020** preferably by the time of class but uploaded by 11:59 p.m. is not considered late. You can buy a copy of *Flatland* at the Biola Bookstore for \$3.31 (price includes tax), or you can read it online for free at: <http://www.geom.uiuc.edu/~banchoff/Flatland>

To Turn In: Turn this in through the Canvas system. If you use Microsoft Word, you can upload the Word document as-is. If you use any other word processor, do **Save As** and choose **Word format** or **PDF format**, and upload that version. I don't want a paper copy.

Online Group Discussions: Since we have a large class, it's hard for everyone to get a chance to contribute to the discussion, so we will do discussion online, on Canvas. You are in a group with 8 or 9 others. Answer the discussion prompt with a paragraph or two (about 200 words). The purpose of these discussions is to help you learn from each other and to give you a chance to think through some of the issues discussed in the lectures. Your initial post is due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date (**Jan 17, Jan 24, Feb 7, Feb 21, Mar 13, Apr 3, and April 17**) You are then required to respond to at least two posts from others by 11:59 p.m., **two days later**. These responses don't have to be long - maybe a sentence or two. However, they should be more substantial than "I agree!" or "Good post." Your responses should contribute to the discussion. Feel free to bring up other topics, or links to relevant content - whatever you think contributes to the discussion. These are worth 8% of your grade.

Final Semester Letter Grade

Your final letter grade will be determined by a weighted percentage, which you can [check here](#) on Canvas. This chart shows your final semester letter grade based on the percent you earn:

To get this grade	You need this percent
A	93%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	83%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	73%
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	63%
D-	60%
F	59.9%

Extended Absences: The [student handbook](#) says that "students who miss more than 20% of regular class sessions (even if absences are considered 'excusable') may be required to drop the course." If you miss **more than four weeks' worth of classes** (8 quizzes), you will earn a failing grade of "UW" – Unofficial Withdrawal. Learning to consistently attend is an important part of class.

Homework extensions. I cannot grant any kind of homework extension beyond the day of the final exam, May 5, 2020. According to the [faculty handbook](#), "All assignments must be in by the time of the final examination unless the Office of the Associate Provost or the dean of the instructional school has in advance granted an extension of time for some valid reason." (Ask about an **"Incomplete"** grade.)