

# Fall 2014: Math 353- Introduction to Combinatorics I, Course Information Sheet

- Instructor:** David Hemmer
- Office:** 211 or 226 (chair's office) Mathematics Building
- Email:** dhemmer@math.buffalo.edu
- Office Phone:** 645-8775
- Class Meetings:** MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. Math 250
- Office Hours:** Monday 10-12, Thursday 2:30-3:30 and by appointment.
- Text:** Allenby & Slomson: How to Count An Introduction To Combinatorics- 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.
- Contacting Dave:** Email is probably the easiest way to contact me. If you are unable to make my office hours, please feel free to schedule an appointment or drop by.
- Prerequisite:** Officially MTH 241. Unofficially the main prerequisite is mathematical maturity,
- Course Description:** This is going to be a fast-paced and fun course, and hopefully everyone will learn a lot of interesting mathematics. My goal is to cover chapters 1-8, 11-15 & 17 of the text. It is going to be essential to keep up with the reading, including learning definitions.
- Class Website:** All course material will be posted on the class website:  
  
<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/~dhemmer/353F14.html>
- There is also a form on the website to leave anonymous feedback about the class.
- Homework:** The homework assignments in this class will be vitally important, and are worth one 40% of the final grade. I will not in general accept late homework unless prior arrangements have been made. I encourage students to work together on solving the problems, however you must write up your final solutions individually and *be sure you personally understand all the work you turn in*. Simply copying solutions is not acceptable. With a class this size it is likely that I will only grade a selection of problems each week. Still this will be a lot of effort, so neatly written up and clearly labeled papers will certainly leave me in a better mood!
- Quizzes:** I will occasionally give unannounced brief quizzes covering definitions or very easy examples. Just like learning a foreign language, it is difficult to master grammar without any vocabulary. Same here, keep up with the definitions and examples!
- Exams:** There will be a midterm exam sometime around the midterm!
- Final Exam:** The final exam will be Wednesday 12/10/14 from 8:00-11:00 in Math 250.

**Grading:** I will determine your final grade out of 500 points as follows:

Quizzes:	50 points
Midterm	100 points
Final Exam:	150 points
Homework:	200 points

No one will receive a final grade lower than the usual grades (i.e. 90-100% A range, 80-89% B range, etc...), although I reserve the right to “curve” grades up. The lowest two homework and lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.

**Resigning/Dropping:** The final day to drop a course (no record on your transcript) is September 2. The final day to resign from a course (R on your transcript) is November 7.

**Attendance:** I expect regular class attendance, although I do not keep track. If you miss class it is your responsibility to find out what went on. If I announce in class the date of a midterm has been changed, you need to find this out! If you know ahead of time you will be unable to attend an examination for a valid reason, please let me know well in advance so we can make arrangements.

**Disabilities:** If you require classroom or testing accommodations due to a disability, please contact Accessibility Resources, located at 25 Capen Hall. AR can be reached by phone at (716) 645-2608 or by email at [stu-accessibility@buffalo.edu](mailto:stu-accessibility@buffalo.edu). Please inform me as soon as possible about your needs so that we can coordinate your accommodations.

**Academic Honesty:** The student conduct rules at <http://www.ub-judiciary.buffalo.edu/rulereg.shtml/> will be enforced. Any cheating on exams will be given the maximum punishment possible. If you are having difficulties please talk to me about it rather than attempting to cheat!