MATH 112 - FALL 2009

Text: Burger & Starbird, The Heart of Mathematics, 2nd Edition (including Manipulative Kit and Interactive Explorations CD)

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Office hours: weekdays 12:20-3:30; or when door is open (call first if you prefer) or by appointment

Prerequisite: pass level 1 placement test or Math 90, C- or better, or, for freshmen only: at least 530 on Math SAT (or 22 on Math ACT).

Mathematical Competency: This course satisfies USD's mathematical competency requirement but should NOT be taken by business, engineering or science majors or other majors where other math courses are required.

Course Content and Goals: This course will focus on some of the great ideas of mathematics not normally covered in high school, with the goals of appreciating these ideas and learning how to think clearly and persistently.

Reading is essential in this course. Read slowly for understanding with pencil and paper in hand to take notes and fill in missing steps.

Homework is also essential. The “mindscape” homework requires clear thinking and perseverance. Get Socratic help from me or a classmate if you are really stuck, but DO NOT copy someone else's work. I will dedicate some class time to discuss mindscapes you can't figure out. Homework will be collected at the start of class once each week and will count about 100 points in all. Late homework won't be accepted. Arrange to have someone else turn in your homework, or e-mail or fax it if necessary to make sure it is turned in on time. Doing homework religiously is the key to success in this course.

Quizzes: There will be a quiz nearly every week when there isn't a test. There are no make-ups on quizzes, but the lowest two quiz scores will be dropped. Quizzes count 100 points in all.

Tests: There will be 2 tests and a final exam worth about 100 points each. Make-up tests will not be given. The final exam will count more heavily to make up for a missing test score.

Grading: The average of all scores will be used to compute your grade (90,80,70,60 cutoffs or the math dept curve of about one quarter A’s and one quarter B’s if percentage grading proves to be unfair).

Cheating is in violation of USD's academic integrity policy. Don’t do it. It is unethical and penalties for violations are severe.