

Math 1332 Online Syllabus

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Required Resources:

1. Charles Seife: *Proofiness: How You're Being Fooled by the Numbers*. ISBN 978-0143120070. This is not a standard math textbook, but instead a reading book. It is available at Amazon in paperback, hardcover, and Kindle. You may use any edition of this book. I will give reading assignments that compliment each unit, and you will respond to the reading assignments in journal entries.
2. David Lippman: *Math in Society* ISBN 978-1-479-27653-0.
This text is available for free on the website <http://www.opentextbookstore.com/mathinsociety/> and has YouTube video lectures to accompany the lectures through the text. We will be using the second edition, and we will cover the chapters titled Problem Solving, Statistics, Describing Data, Voting Theory, Probability, and Finance. If you prefer a hard copy of the text, you can print one yourself or you can purchase one from Amazon for \$15. In addition, we will be using a freely available software to work through homework on the website <https://www.myopenmath.com>.
3. Technology - We will be making use of Blackboard and ProctorFree for class exams. For this, you will need to make sure you have a webcam, which is typically included on most laptops. You may want a scientific calculator similar to the TI 30. For Unit 5 (Finance), you will need a spreadsheet program such as Microsoft Excel.

Course Objectives: Math 1332 is designed to meet the objectives of Component area 2 of the core curriculum for non-business and non-science related majors. Topics may include sets, counting principles, probability, logic, linear algebra, linear programming, mathematics of finance, geometry, and calculus. Applications are emphasized.

This course aims to introduce students to a broad variety of mathematical topics. The math discussed in this class is math that you will encounter in daily life. Students will be challenged to think critically, to analyze the way we use mathematics in society, to identify and solve mathematical questions, and to use mathematics to become better thinkers and learners.

We will complete five units this semester:

- Unit 1: Problem Solving
- Unit 2: Statistics & Data
- Unit 3: Voting Theory

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- Unit 4: Probability
- Unit 5: Finance

Grading: There will be three components to your course grade, Assessments, Journal Entries, and Homework Assignments. Your final grade will be the weighted average of: your top four Assessments, each worth 15%, Weekly Journal Entries, worth 30%, and Weekly Homework Assignments, worth 10%. Your final average will be assigned a letter grade according to the traditional scale:

- A: 89.5 - 100%
- B: 79.5 - 89.4%
- C: 69.5 - 79.4%
- D: 59.5 - 69.4%
- F: 0-59.4%

Assessments: Each unit will have a Unit Exam at the end of the unit. You will take the exams using an online proctoring service called ProctorFree. Each exam will be available to you from a Wednesday to a Friday so that you may take the exam at your convenience. Once you start an exam, you will have 2 hours to complete it. The exams will be open on the following dates:

- Unit 1 Exam: Problem Solving - September 13 - 15.
- Unit 2 Exam: Statistics & Data - October 4 - 6.
- Unit 3 Exam: Voting Theory - October 25 - 27.
- Unit 4 Exam: Probability - November 15 - 17.
- Unit 5 Exam: Finance - December 1 - 5.

Journal Entries: There will be a Journal Entry due each week on Wednesday. Students will be given a written assignment or prompt and will be expected to craft a well written response that demonstrates the student's understanding of the course and reading material. Many of these journal assignments will be responses to the reading assignments from Proofiness. Students will submit journal entries using TurnItIn.

Homework: Homework in this class will be assigned weekly using the free open source platform <https://www.myopenmath.com>. Homework will be due every Wednesday. The homework demonstrates your effort in learning the material, and you will get unlimited attempts to solve each homework problem. Please note that it is entirely possible to

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“complete” the homework without actually practicing the material. While this approach may get your homework done faster, it will not do you any favors when it comes time to take the exam. The homework exercises will allow you to explore and practice the material from the chapter, but only if you give them due attention.

Course Schedule: Students must keep on pace with all lectures, videos, and assignments. Online courses require independent learning and self-motivation. Each week, you will have a specific set of material to learn and assignments to complete. You may log onto the class at any time of day and complete your work as best fits your schedule. Do not fall behind! Late work will not be accepted. Refer to the document titled Course Schedule on Blackboard for the detailed list of assignments and due dates.

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to abide by SHSU’s policy on Academic Honesty. Cheating and plagiarism of any type will absolutely not be tolerated. Any student found to violate with Academic Honesty policy will be penalized in a way that reflects the degree of the offense. This may include failing an assignment, failing the class, and/or being reported to the appropriate dean for further disciplinary measures. Please note that directly copying any material from any source, including the textbook, is plagiarism.

Getting Help: Students in this class have multiple resources for getting help. You should use the following avenues, in order.

- **Discussion Board:** The Discussion Board is solely a forum where you may ask questions about the reading or the homework and get help from your classmates and TA. The idea is to have the class operate like a study group - with all of you working together to further your learning. Use the Discussion Board to ask for help on problems you don’t understand how to do. If you do understand how to do the problems, help out your classmates by answering questions on the discussion board. The discussion board will be monitored Monday through Friday by your graduate TA. You should use the discussion boards as a first resource, so that others can benefit from your questions. There is no specific requirement to post on the Discussion Board, but students have the opportunity to earn extra credit by answering other students’ Discussion Board questions.
- **Email:** Students are welcome to email me directly with a specific question, particularly if they did not understand the Discussion Board conversation. Please understand that I cannot check my email at all hours of the day. I will respond to student emails Monday through Friday. I will make every attempt to respond to a student email within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends.
- **Appointment:** If additional assistance is necessary, students are welcome to come to my in-person office hours, which can be found under Professor Information.
- **Math Center:** Students are welcome to use the on-campus Math Center for tutoring.

Communication: Students are welcome and encouraged to communicate with me and with each other using any appropriate channel. This includes making an appointment to talk with me in my office or by email and using the class Discussion Board. However, all

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communication in this class is expected to be professional in order to warrant a response. This means that, if you email me, you are expected to include a professional greeting, write in complete sentences, identify yourself as a student in Math 1332, and include a signature. You can expect the same courtesy in return. Furthermore, students are expected to be respectful and polite to one another when posting on the Discussion Board. Any comments that I deem to be inappropriate will be deleted. Note: Please do not reply to an email that I send to the entire class. Instead, begin a new conversation.

Disability Support: Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to communicate his or her needs with me during the first two weeks of class. All such discussions will remain confidential. Additionally, these students are required to visit the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center to obtain the proper documentation for any accommodations.