

MATH 2300

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Syllabus

TR 10:30-11:50 am

Fall 2021

CRBL C301

Instructor: Julio César Urenda CastañedaOffice: [MS Teams](#): [Office](#)

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Problem Solving Hours: TBA

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Modality This course is part of the HyFlex pilot program, this means that you will be attending face-to-face sessions as well as online synchronous sessions. Since we meet twice a week, there are two groups: A and B, where the A group meets face-to-face on Tuesdays and online on Thursdays while the B group meets face-to-face on Thursdays and online on Tuesdays. The group that you belong may change through the duration of the course. However, the modality may change depending on the particular circumstances of the class.

Prerequisites: Calculus I (MATH 1411). This is a mathematical maturity requirement, since we will not make use of calculus in this class.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course, you will know and be apply the basic algebra of sets and of logic. You will identify and use common classes of relations. You will know basic properties of arbitrary functions. You will solve counting problems involving combinations and permutations, including counting problems with restrictions. You will know the basic definitions and theorems of graph theory, and you will model problems using graphs and their properties. You will know the classical graph and tree processing algorithms. Note that this class will probably be quite different from other math classes you have taken, in at least two important ways. First, in contrast to calculus and related courses, the objects under consideration are (as the course title suggests) discrete, not continuous. This has the advantage that you can often explicitly list all the pieces (try listing all the function values of a continuous function!), but the disadvantage of not having continuity to “tie” things together nicely. Second, although there is still a lot of problem-solving, the problems and their answers have a very different flavor: the problems are not equations to be solved, and the answers often are not even numbers. We also may spend more time explaining why a particular solution works than in finding the solution.

Communication This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TA, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to the teaching staff, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com.

Find our class page at: [Piazza](#)

Textbook: Discrete Mathematics, 5th ed., Dossey, et. al., Chapters. 2, 4, 5, 8, Appendix A and 10.4.

We will skip some sections, as announced in class. The textbook is required at all class meetings. The 4th edition of this book may be much cheaper and it contains all the material we cover in the course. Also, a good free resource is [Discrete Mathematics and Open Introduction](#) by Levin.

Required Reading: Read each section that we cover in class, both before and after class. Skim the section before class, even if you do not understand it fully, to have some idea of what we’ll be doing in class. Read it more carefully after class to clarify and fill in details you missed in class.

Warning: Sometimes, we will not “cover” all the material from a section in class, but instead focus on a particular aspect of the section. In such cases, I will point out in class which other parts of the section I expect you to read on your own.

Grading We use an additive grading criterion: every assignment contains an fixed number of points, your final grade is determined by the fraction of the points you obtain over the maximum number of points available.

Thus, to determine your current standing in the class, add up the points you currently have and divide them by the current maximum number of points. We apply the standard letter grade system based on this fraction g

- A if $0.9 \leq g \leq 1.0$
- B if $0.8 \leq g < 0.9$
- C if $0.7 \leq g < 0.8$
- D if $0.6 \leq g < 0.7$
- F otherwise

Quizzes, Homework, and Participation Suggested homework problems will be assigned most class days and will generally be discussed at the next class. There will be approximately 20 quizzes, with problems taken from the homework and readings. Missed quizzes **cannot** be made up. It is very important that you do your homework before the due date. You will only learn the material by doing it yourself, not by watching others do it for you. Mathematics is not an spectator's game.

Partial Exams There will be three exams, exact dates will be announced in class. Makeup exams can be given only in extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances, and with advance notice.

Final The final comprehensive exam will be on

Thursday, December 9 th

Technology Requirements Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Policies

Class Recordings: The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

COVID-19 Precautions: Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso

area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Academic dishonesty: It is UTEP's policy, and mine, for all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty to be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for investigation and appropriate disposition. See Section II.1.2.2 of the Handbook of Operating Procedures.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these etiquette guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.
- Be reminded that some materials are subject to copyright and violations are prosecuted, so be cautious on what you share!

Attendance: You are strongly encouraged to attend class every day. I expect you to arrive for class on time and to remain seated until the class is dismissed. Students who have demonstrated lack of effort will be dropped from the course with a grade of "F". You are responsible to find out any assignment that must be made up if you get behind. My goal is for class meetings and activities to complement, rather than to echo, the textbook, and thus for every class to be worth attending.

Drop date: The deadline for student-initiated drops with a W is **Friday, Oct 29st**. After this date, you can only drop with the Dean's approval, which is granted only under extenuating circumstances. I hope everyone will complete the course successfully, but if you are having doubts about your progress, I will be happy to discuss your standing in the course to help you decide whether or not to drop. You are only allowed three enrollments in this course, and students enrolled after Fall 2007 are only allowed six withdrawals in their entire academic career, so please exercise the drop option judiciously.

Courtesy: We all have to show courtesy to each other, and the class as a whole, during class time. Please arrive to class on time (or let me know when you have to be late, and why); do not engage in side conversations when one person (me, or another student) is talking to the whole class; turn off your cell phone (or, for emergencies, at least set it to not ring out loud), and do not engage in phone, email, or text conversations during class.

Disabilities: If you have, or suspect you have, a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, cass@utep.edu, or Union East room 106. You are responsible for presenting to me any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

Exceptional circumstances: If you anticipate the possibility of missing large portions of class time, due to exceptional circumstances such as military service and/or training, or childbirth, please let me know as soon as possible.

Course Resources: UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- Technology Resources
- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- Academic Resources
 - UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

- Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Concept Map:

