

Course Syllabus

MATH/DATA 195M New Major Colloquium

Fall 2023, Tues 3:00-3:50 PM

Description of Course

Seminar-style course designed to introduce math department majors to the mathematical community at large, support new majors as they adjust to university life and expectations, and build students' written and oral communication skills, especially on math-related topics.

Course Prerequisites or Co-requisites

This course is recommended for students majoring in Mathematics or Statistics & Data Science, especially new freshman or transfer students.

Instructor and Contact Information

Michelle Ort, Mathematics Room 221

michelleort@math.arizona.edu (preferred for course-related communication)

mathcenter@math.arizona.edu (preferred for advising-related communication)

John Peca-Medlin, Mathematics Room 710

johnpeca@math.arizona.edu

Caroline Schwengler, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

cschwengler@arizona.edu

Office Hours:

- Michelle Ort: Mondays 2-3 PM, in person or via [Zoom](#) (or email to request an appointment at a different time)
- John Peca-Medlin: [By appointment](#)
- Caroline Schwengler: TBD

Course Website: 195M.math.arizona.edu

Course Format and Teaching Methods

This course meets once per week. Attendance is integral to class objectives; students who need to miss class should contact the instructor in advance. Each student will be required to make one presentation during the semester, in addition to written homework.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will

- Feel that they have a supportive community within the math department, including classmates, advisors, and faculty they can turn to when they need help.
- Know how to navigate the university environment and access resources for financial, emotional, and academic support.
- Understand the broad definitions of mathematics and statistics, as well as the myriad applications and research directions that are possible in these fields.
- Learn skills to communicate confidently about mathematical topics, including
 - LaTeX typesetting;
 - scholarly research skills;
 - mathematical writing conventions; and
 - engaging presentation techniques.
- Articulate their goals and passions in mathematics and statistics.

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to

- List and define at least three topic areas within mathematics and statistics
- Identify the best resource to use to answer any question that comes up during their UA career
- Typeset mathematical problems, short essays, and presentations using LaTeX
- Structure a short essay on a mathematical topic, using logical sequencing and supporting evidence for claims
- Create and deliver a presentation that engages the audience, with effective use of visual aids and other strategies

Absence and Class Participation Policy

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance and Participation is available at:

<https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-and-participation>

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable,

<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>.

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/absences>

There will be required activities for this course each week. If you are unable to attend class time, please inform the instructor **in advance** (or as soon as possible in emergency situations) and discuss alternative methods of completion.

To request a disability-related accommodation to this attendance policy, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (520) 621-3268 or drc-info@email.arizona.edu. If you are experiencing unexpected barriers to your success in your courses, the Dean of Students Office is a central support resource for all students and may be helpful. The Dean of Students Office is located in the Robert L. Nugent Building, room 100, or call 520-621-7057.

Makeup Policy for Students Who Register Late

Students who register after the first class meeting may make up missed assignments/quizzes within the first week after registering.

Course Communications

Communication about this course will be sent using D2L and/or students' UA email addresses.

Required Texts or Readings

There are no required texts for this class. Any reading assignments will be posted on D2L; students may read online or print for their own use.

Required or Special Materials

Students must have access to a laptop that they will bring to certain class periods for LaTeX practice using Overleaf LaTeX editor. See <https://lib.arizona.edu/borrow/tech> to rent a laptop free of charge.

Required Extracurricular Activities

Students are required to attend one out-of-class event on campus for at least an hour and write a short journal entry about it. See D2L for details.

Assignments and Examinations

Written assignments:

- In-class journals
- D2L Quizzes
- One-page resume
- Event paragraph
- Each student will give a presentation on a math-related topic during weeks 8-12 of the course; they will also write a 1000-word essay on the same topic. Both the paper and the presentation should be formatted using LaTeX.
 - A bibliography of at least three relevant sources will be due in week 4.
 - The first draft of the paper will be due for all students in week 8.
 - Peer review of a classmate's paper will be due in week 9.
 - The final draft of the paper will be due in week 15.
 - Each student will fill out a peer evaluation form for the presentations by other students.

Final Examination or Project

This course has no final exam. The main project (paper and presentation) will be due before the end of the class.

Grading Scale and Policies

Final grades will be calculated using the following weights:

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| • Quizzes (2 drops) | 15% |
| • Journals (1 drop) | 25% |
| • Paper and Presentation | 35% |
| • Peer Review | 15% |
| • Resume | 10% |

Rubrics for each assignment will be posted on D2L before the due date. A final score of 90% or above will result in a grade of S. Between 60% and 89% will result in a grade of P. Below 60% will result in a grade of F. These grades will not affect the student's GPA.

Incomplete (I) or Withdrawal (W):

Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

Dispute of Grade Policy

If a student feels the grade they received on an assignment was incorrect or unfair, they may dispute the grade with the instructor within two weeks after it is returned.

Scheduled Topics/Activities

Dates	Class Topic	Assignments Due
Aug. 22	Intro: What is math?	
Aug. 29	LaTeX Intro	Quiz 1
Sept. 5	LaTeX continued - Paper organization, text, bibliography	Quiz 2, Journal 1, presentation signup
Sept. 12	Career talk	Quiz 3, Journal 2
Sept. 19	LaTeX continued - Resume	Quiz 4
Sept. 26	LaTeX	Quiz 5
Oct. 3	LaTeX	Quiz 6, Resume
Oct. 10	Sources and Bibliography	Quiz 7, Journal 3
Oct. 17	Research and Internship opportunities	Quiz 8, Annotated bibliography
Oct. 24	Revising your drafts	First draft
Oct. 31	Presenting mathematical info	Quiz 9, Journal 4, Peer review of paper
Nov. 7	Presentations	
Nov. 14	Presentations	
Nov. 21	Presentations	Quiz 10

Nov. 28	No class - watch online presentations, work on final drafts	Out of class event journal. Final draft due Dec. 3
December 5	Reflection/Self-assessment/Course assessment	Quiz 11, Journal 5

Classroom Behavior Policy

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.).

Threatening Behavior Policy

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

Accessibility and Accommodations

At the University of Arizona, we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268, <https://drc.arizona.edu/>) to establish reasonable accommodations.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism>.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy

The University of Arizona is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination. In support of this commitment, the University prohibits discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, based on a protected classification, including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. For more information, including how to report a concern, please see

<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

Additional Resources for Students

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>

Campus Health

<http://www.health.arizona.edu/>

Campus Health provides quality medical and mental health care services through virtual and in-person care.

Phone: 520-621-9202

Counseling and Psych Services (CAPS)

<https://health.arizona.edu/counseling-psych-services>

CAPS provides mental health care, including short-term counseling services.

Phone: 520-621-3334

The Dean of Students Office's Student Assistance Program

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Student Assistance helps students manage crises, life traumas, and other barriers that impede success. The staff addresses the needs of students who experience issues related to social adjustment, academic challenges, psychological health, physical health,

victimization, and relationship issues, through a variety of interventions, referrals, and follow up services.

Email: DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu

Phone: 520-621-7057

Survivor Advocacy Program

<https://survivoradvocacy.arizona.edu/>

The Survivor Advocacy Program provides confidential support and advocacy services to student survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The Program can also advise students about relevant non-UA resources available within the local community for support.

Email: survivoradvocacy@email.arizona.edu

Phone: 520-621-5767

Campus Pantry

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. In addition, the University of Arizona Campus Pantry is open for students to receive supplemental groceries at no cost. Please see their website at: campuspantry.arizona.edu for open times.

Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that I may possess.

Preferred Name & Pronoun

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct instructors on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly in class or via email (instructor email). If you wish to change your preferred name or pronoun in the UAccess system, please use the following guidelines:

Preferred name: University of Arizona students may choose to identify themselves within the University community using a preferred first name that differs from their official/legal name. A student's preferred name will appear instead of the person's official/legal first name in select University-related systems and documents, provided that the name is not being used for the purpose of misrepresentation. Students are able to update their preferred names in UAccess.

Pronouns: Students may designate pronouns they use to identify themselves. Instructors and staff are encouraged to use pronouns for people that they use for themselves as a sign of respect and inclusion. Students are able to update and edit their pronouns in UAccess.

More information on updating your preferred name and pronouns is available on the Office of the Registrar site at <https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/>.

Safety on Campus and in the Classroom

For a list of emergency procedures for all types of incidents, please visit the website of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT):

<https://cirt.arizona.edu/case-emergency/overview>

Also watch the video available at

https://arizona.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web_spf/NA7P1PRD161/common/learningeventdetail/crtfy000000000003560

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.