

MATH 220 AD9 – MERIT CALCULUS 1

General Information.

Instructor:	Tom Cooney
Email:	tcooney@math.uiuc.edu
Office:	150 Altgeld Hall
Class Webpage:	http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~tcooney/math220
Meeting Room and Time:	173 Altgeld, 9:00 - 10:50 a.m. on MWF
Office Hours:	Tuesdays at 3pm in 173 Altgeld or by appointment.

Merit Grade. The Merit section is graded independently of the Math 220 lecture and is reported on your transcript as Math 199. Math 220 grades are determined as described by Professor Rosenblatt. Math 199 grades will be determined as follows: each meeting will be worth 10 points based on Attendance, Preparation and Participation. Grades will be assigned according to the usual A, B, C, . . . scale.

- **Attendance:** Attendance is required and will follow the Merit policy:
 - 0 to 5 minutes late - 0 to 3 points (TA's decision)
 - 5-15 minutes late - 0 points for attendance
 - 15-30 minutes late - 0 points for attendance and a maximum of 5 points for that day.
 - Unexcused absence or more than 30 minutes late - 0 points for that day
 - In addition, a student with two unexcused absences can get at most a B for Math 199, three unexcused absences a C (and so on). Persistent tardiness will lead to similar consequences.
- **Preparation:** You are expected to come to class having already studied your notes from lecture, having read the text materials assigned during lecture, and having completed homework assignments. This will often be checked by a short quiz or a short assignment due at the beginning of class, worth 2 points.
- **Participation:** A large part of how the Merit program will benefit you comes from how you interact with the class. You are expected to contribute to class discussions with ideas and insights as well as asking questions. Please use this opportunity to its greatest advantage.

No phones or music players, etc.

The Merit Philosophy. Merit discussions provide a great opportunity for you to attain a high level of understanding of the course material and to learn to think critically about math in general. **The Merit section is not a review session or tutoring session.** We will incorporate aspects of lecture material into the questions that we consider, but this is not meant to be a repeat of lecture nor is it intended to take the place of time you should be studying outside of class. During this time (where you will be receiving Math 199 credit),

you will learn to think critically about complex problems and work with others in small groups to solve them. You will learn new ways to tackle problems, feel more comfortable about sharing your ideas, make new friends, and realize what you do and don't understand in a comfortable, supportive environment. You are encouraged to share your opinions in class, but please be aware and respectful that others may have different opinions. You don't have to agree, but must learn to attack ideas, not people. The biggest benefit of Merit will be gained by students who come to class already familiar with the material and prepared to discuss it, hear new ideas from peers, and apply their understanding to novel situations. But the format is not a traditional one with an instructor giving information that you are to learn and reproduce. I will be a "non-traditional" instructor for much of the time. I will often not answer questions directly, but will ask you to consider them further in your groups or to find the information on your own. We will all need to think in new ways about our roles in this class. While there is the possibility for frustration inherent in this, I'm confident that we can work together to make this a remarkably valuable experience.

I look forward to sharing this discussion with you. If you have any concerns, please contact me. Have a great Spring semester!