

## Math 231 Section AD1/Math 199

WF 9:00-10:50 am

**T.A.:** Tom Mahoney

**Office:** Altgeld 150

**Office Hours:** TuTh 10-11am

**Help Room:** Wed 6-7pm Altgeld 239

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**My Website:** [www.math.uiuc.edu/~tmahone2/231\\_s14/231\\_s14.html](http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~tmahone2/231_s14/231_s14.html)

**Course Webpage:** [www.math.uiuc.edu/~jvalidas/Teaching/MATH231/math231.html](http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~jvalidas/Teaching/MATH231/math231.html)

### Merit Discussion Session Grades

Each student may earn up to 10 points for his or her performance in each Merit session. The points will be assigned on the basis of Attendance, Preparation, and Participation. Your 30 best daily scores will determine your final grade, out of a possible 300 points. Letter grades are as follows, A: 270-300, B: 240-269, C: 210-239, D: 180-209, F: < 180. You must earn at least a B in Math 199 to be eligible for Merit next semester.

#### **Attendance/Promptness: (5 points)**

Attendance is required and will be recorded. Points will be deducted for being late (including after breaks). No attendance points are earned after being 15 minutes late.

#### **Preparation/Participation: (5 points)**

You are expected to come to class prepared, which includes already having studied your notes from lecture, having read the assigned material, and having completed your homework. You are also expected to read any emails sent by the professor or myself.

A large part of how the Merit program will benefit you comes from how you interact with the class and your group. You are expected to contribute your ideas and insights as well as your questions. Please use this opportunity to its greatest advantage.

#### **The Merit Philosophy**

You have volunteered to be in this Merit section, so I expect you to take some initiative in learning this material. The extra hour you spend in this section (over an ordinary discussion) is designed to allow you a deeper understanding of the material. The Merit section is NOT a review session. In particular, I expect you to spend ample time outside of class doing the things you ought to do in any math class (attending and taking notes in lecture, doing homework problems, and reading assigned materials).

During our extra discussion time, you will work in groups on carefully constructed worksheets. The problems are designed to incite deeper thinking about the subject. They will be more difficult, but ultimately more rewarding for you. As you collaborate to solve problems on the worksheet, I will wander around the room, giving guidance as needed. I will rarely give direct answers, and will seek to guide your thinking by asking you questions.

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

Here is a handy chart of Merit expectations.

<b>You will...</b>	<b>You won't...</b>
work in groups.	work alone.
prepare for discussion by reviewing your lecture notes and working on the homework.	use discussion as a chance to catch up on lecture material or homework.
get to know each other and work together outside of discussion.	be rude, hurtful, racist, sexist, intolerant, or generally uncivilized.
listen to other students.	seldom contribute because you are shy.
let me know if there's a problem with lectures, homework, or exams.	stew in seething resentment towards the professor.
let me know if there's a problem with the worksheets, discussions, or quizzes.	stew in seething resentment towards me.
record your worksheet solutions on a <i>separate</i> piece of paper.	cram the solutions into the margin of your worksheet.
make sure your group has access to a book during class.	use computers or cell phones for non-math activities during class.
<b>I will...</b>	<b>I won't...</b>
help you sift through your logic if you feel stuck.	answer direct questions.
write challenging worksheets that will improve your understanding of the lecture material.	write worksheets intended to trick you.
help you with homework and answer direct questions during office hours and appointments.	talk about homework during discussion.
answer emails and arrange appointments if you cannot make it to my regular office hours.	be available all the time. (I am in graduate school!)
<b>I can...</b>	<b>I can't...</b>
talk with the professor and make reasonable guesses about exam content while writing mock exams.	read the professor's mind.
be your advocate if I agree that your quizzes or exams have been incorrectly or unreasonably graded.	change your grade if the professor doesn't agree with me.
determine your Math 199 grade.	determine your Math 231 grade.