

Course Information: Combinatorics

MATH 453-001

Spring 2008

Hours & Location: MWF 3:15am-4:30pm in Stuart Building 220

Instructor's name: Michael Pelsmajer (pelsmajer@iit.edu)

Website: <http://www.math.iit.edu/~pelsmaje/Math453-Spring08.html>

Office Address: E1 206

Office Telephone: 567-5344

Office Hours: By appointment (usually agreed upon after class)

Text for the course: Tesman & Roberts, *Applied Combinatorics, 2nd Edition*, topics chosen from chapters 1–9.

Grading Policy: Homeworks & Quizzes are worth 40% of the total grade, a midterm exam is 20%, the final exam is 30%, and the project is 10%. The grading scale is 90–100%: A, 80–89%: B, etc.

The instructor may choose to be more generous with the cut-offs, depending on speed/difficulty of material we manage to do.

You are expected to do all of the reading. We won't cover much of this material (particularly, many examples and applications) during class.

It is expected that you will attend every class. Not everything will be covered in the book; moreover, topics will not be covered in the same way.

You are expected to respond to email. You are expected to seek out the instructor outside of class as needed.

Clarity of thought and writing is key. You have to work at it to improve. This is something you must decide to do this semester.

Homework will be collected each Tuesday. Homework will have easy problems, intended to help motivate you to do the reading, and other, more substantial, problems.

You can collaborate on homeworks, but you should not collaborate as you are writing up your solutions. You should talk to the instructor often (or as needed).

There will be a quiz each Thursday.

There will be a project, in which you will explore topics that you won't see elsewhere. Students can work in groups of up to 3 people, with proportionate expectations. There will be hard due dates for choosing a topic, handing in an abstract, etc., and meeting these deadlines will be part of the grade. The topic must be agreed upon by the instructor and by the student(s) involved, and the abstract will specify what is expected of the student(s). The instructor will suggest topic, and the students can suggest topics as well. Probably the project will have a presentation and a short paper.