

Course Information: Introduction to Discrete Mathematics

Math 230-01

Spring 2010

Hours & Location: MWF 1:50-2:40pm in Perlstein Hall room 109

Instructor: Michael Pelsmajer (pelsmajer@iit.edu)

<http://mypages.iit.edu/~pelsmajer/Math230-Spring2010.html>

Office: Engineering 1 Building, Room 206 (567-5344)

Office Hours: Anytime, by appointment.

Required text: Rosen, *Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications, Sixth Edition*, McGraw-Hill. (It has a useful web site, http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072880082/student_view0.) This is a good reference book; I recommend that you keep it after the end of the semester.

Other texts: “Sets, Functions, and Logic: An Introduction to Abstract Mathematics, 3rd Ed.” by Keith Devlin (which some of your classmates already own), and “Discrete Mathematics, 2nd Ed.” by Norman L. Biggs, have nice, alternative explanations of many topics in the course.

Syllabus: Most of Chapters 1-7. For a detailed syllabus, see

http://www.iit.edu/csl/am/programs/course_descriptions.shtml.

Homework Policy:

Homework must be well-written.

It is expected that you will check your answers to all odd-numbered problems yourself: answers are in the back of the book, while the student solution book has complete solutions for odd-numbered problems. Some homework will be graded. It is expected that you will do all the homework, whether or not it is graded, including *all the assigned reading*.

(Eventually, there may be some homework assigned using “WeBWorK”. More on that later.)

Grading Policy:

Attendance is 10% of the grade. You start out with 10%. After the first two or three missed classes, each subsequent missed class deducts 1% from the final grade, up to 10%. Arriving late to class, or being semi-conscious (i.e., too tired to participate), counts as half a missed class.

Homeworks and quizzes are together worth 20% of the grade. Generally speaking, homework must be handed in *before class begins* on the day it is due, and missed quizzes cannot be made up. (Maybe a couple exceptions per person per semester.)

Two hour exams are worth 20% each. A final exam (to be scheduled by the registrar) is worth 30%.

In the end, 90%–100% is an A, 80%–89% is a B, 70%–79% is a C, 60%–69% is a D. There is no curve, so in theory, everyone could get an “A”, and there could be no “A”s.

What the course is about, terribly briefly:

The **material** in this course has applications in mathematics, computer science, and engineering. The **mathematical skills** that are developed in this course have even wider application. There are **multiple themes** of this course: mathematical reasoning, combinatorial analysis, discrete structures, and algorithmic thinking (see Rosen, p.vii–viii for details).

Also see “To the student” in Rosen (p.xx–xxii), and introduction to both the topic and the text.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must obtain a letter of accommodation from the Center for Disability Resources and make an appointment to speak with me [the instructor] as soon as possible. The Center for Disability Resources (CDR) is located in Life Sciences Room 218, telephone 312-567-5744 or disabilities@iit.edu.

(January 11, 2010)