

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
Department of Mathematics
Math 255 – Mathematical Computing
Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr Larson
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Web page: www.people.vcu.edu/~clarson, and Blackboard for grades.
Office Hours: 11:00-12:30 TTh

Prerequisite(s): Math 201

Text: *No text.*

Software: Each student is required to sign up for a (\$14) one semester student subscription to CoCalc (cocalc.com) .

Learning Goals (from the VCU Bulletin): An introduction to computer algebra systems (CAS) and their use in mathematical, scientific and engineering investigations/computations. Introductory mathematical computer programming using a CAS, including implementation of problem-specific algorithms.

Attendance: There is no attendance policy per se, but there will be homework and in-class assignments that are due.

Goals and Expectations:

- You are expected to attend class, complete homework, and ask questions during class or office hours.
- When presenting your work, I expect you to show all significant steps that are used to complete each problem. In cases where work is missing, you will not be given full credit.
- I encourage you to work with others on homework problems, however, any assignments to be turned in must be written up on your own. If you work with others, you must write who you worked with on your assignment.
- Please write neatly on all assignments to be graded; exceptionally messy work may not be graded.
- Only selected homework problems will be graded; other problems will be graded for completion.
- **There are no make-ups on in-class assignments.** I will drop your two lowest in-class assignments, assuming that you couldn't come to class for excusable reasons.
- Make up tests will be considered under exceptional circumstances: if you miss a test and want to be considered for a make-up, you *must* contact me immediately.

Tests and Determination of Grades:

There will be a mid-term and an in-class Final. Here is the *tentative* schedule:

Test 1, Thurs., Mar. 5

Test 2, Thurs., Apr. 30, 8-11:00 (our scheduled FINAL time).

- The tests are closed-book and closed-notes.
- The tests will be *closely based on* the in-class assignments and assigned homework.
- Tests are written under the assumption that you are studying the material at least 6 hours per week outside of class.

Your final average will be computed as follows:

Midterm:	20%
Homework:	25%
In-class assignments:	35%
Final Exam:	20%

Grade Scale: The 10-point scale: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, etc.

Important Dates to Know:

- Reading Day: Wed., April 29
- Classes end: Tues., Apr. 28

VCU Syllabus Statement: Students should visit <http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus> and review **all** syllabus statement information. The full university syllabus statement includes information on safety, registration, the VCU Honor Code, student conduct, withdrawal and more.