

Math/CS 375

Syllabus Update 1

March 17, 2020

Instructor: Jacob Schroder

This is an update to the course syllabus in response to the Coronavirus. I sincerely hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Our plan is to finish this semester and keep everyone on track for their degree. I will be as flexible and adaptive as I can, as we move to online instruction. You will learn the material that you need from this class.

In particular, I want to be respectful of the fact that everyone's schedule is erratic and difficult to manage right now. For instance, public schools K-12 are closed, leaving child-care duties to parents. Thus, here are a few ground rules moving forward.

- 1) We should expect to only be meeting online for the rest of the semester.
- 2) One week notice, at least, for any assignments.
 - The next homework HW6 has a new later due date of Sunday, March 29, at midnight.
 - See the updated homework PDF on the course website.
- 3) No "high stakes" assignments until after April 5th.
 - This is a recommendation of the Provost, that I agree with. Thus, our midterm will be due that Tuesday, April 7th. It will be posted the preceding week. More details below.
- 4) We will use UNM learn for ALL homework and exam submissions.

But, we will keep using https://math.unm.edu/~schroder/2020_Spring_375/index.html for assigning homeworks and posting lecture materials. This website will have up-to-date assignment information.

- 5) We will use the course's UNM Learn Discussion Board for answering questions normally posed during office hours. Navigate to the course's Learn page, and click on "Discussion Board" on the left. If it helps, you can post a scanned handwritten picture, along with your question.

We will also try out UNM Learn's "Blackboard Collaborate" for virtual office hours.

- 6) I will be flexible, but if possible, please communicate with me before assignments are due if you need an accommodation.

And now for a few details.

Lectures

- 1) I will strive to make the online lecture material easy to access, regardless of your internet connection. You didn't sign up for an online class, and may have limited internet at home.
- 2) Lectures will likely consist of a combination of
 - PDF Slides
 - Audio narration file walking you through the slides
 - Accompanying hand-written notes, when needed. Some of these may be short videos, depending on circumstances.
- 3) I will post dates next to lectures, to mark the correct pace of the class.
- 4) To start things up after Spring Break, I am targeting
 - 1 lecture next week (ending March 27)
 - 2 lectures the next week (ending April 3)

Such a “soft opening” was recommended by the Provost.

Homework

- 1) We will still have homework, and you will turn it in online. To do this,
 - Go to the course's UNM Learn page, and click on the homework link on the left
- 2) In general, homework will be due on Sunday nights, at midnight
- 3) You must turn in your homework as a single PDF file
 - PDF is the only file format guaranteed to appear the same on my machine, your machine, and the grader's machine.
- 4) Look at the revised HW6 PDF at https://math.unm.edu/~schroder/2020_Spring_375/index.html#homework for some pointers on generating PDF files.

Discussion board

- 1) Navigate to the course's UNM Learn page, and click on the Discussion Board link on the left.
- 2) This is where office hours type questions can be asked.
- 3) If you need to write a question down on paper, just take a picture of it with your phone, and you can post it alongside your question. This should let you ask more complicated questions.
- 4) I will be exploring virtual office hour options, through either blackboard collaborate or Zoom. Stay tuned.

Exams

The midterm will be a take home exam, with multiple days to work on it. This should give everyone enough flexibility, with various work and childcare arrangements, to sit down and take the exam.

There will be a UNM Learn link for submitting your midterm, just like for HW6. The midterm will be posted sometime the week before April 7th, and due on April 7th. More details to come. The final will likely be similar to the midterm, with more details in the future.

Grades

The grading scale and breakdown is unchanged from the original syllabus.

Syllabus

This document is an update to course syllabus, and I will post it alongside the syllabus on the course website. We will likely make changes to this document, as we adapt, but I will always let you know ahead of time.

Message

I hope you and your loved ones stay well during this time.