Math 1020Q - 01 Course Description - Problem Solving

Mark Naigles
Office: MSB 218, Phone: 860-486-3595, Email: Mark.Naigles@UConn.edu
Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 - 2:00 PM, and by appointment

Meeting Times 3:30 - 5:50 PM Thursdays in MSB 311

Textbook PProblem SSSolving, 3rd edition, by DeFranco, Vinsonhaler, and Naigles

General Information

Goals: The basic goal is to foster problem solving skills that can be applied throughout the college experience and the rest of your life.

Expectations: First, you are expected to come to class. I will not be doing much lecturing - you will be working on problems. **You are responsible for everything that happens in class.** If you miss a class, you are expected to find out what happened, either from me or one of your classmates. Second, you should expect to do much of your learning outside the classroom, generally spending around 4-6 hours a week working on this class. Problem Solving, like most subjects, is learned by doing. Most of all, it is expected that you will get excited about what you are learning and take delight in your own, perhaps unexpected, ability to solve intriguing problems.

Homework: Homework will be assigned, collected and graded each week. Homework is to be done outside of class and we will not devote extensive class time to the discussion of homework problems. Your written work is expected to be **neat**, accurate and contain written explanations using full sentences and standard English. It is easier to grade (and award credit for) work done on a word processor. All work must be shown; **an answer without an explanation is not worth any credit.** It is your responsibility to get help if you can't complete an assignment. You can come to my office, work with other students, send me email, or use any reasonable method to figure out how to complete your assignments. **Please be familiar with UConn's policy on Academic Integrity.**

Group Projects: You will be assigned projects during the semester to be worked on in groups. One write-up will be submitted for each group. Projects will be graded on accuracy, creativity and presentation. We will begin the projects in class, but frequently additional time outside of class will be required to complete them. Groups will be asked to present their project solutions to the class.

Week	Date	Material	Assignment due on Date
1	September 3, 2015	Chapters 1,2 - Problem Solving, PSSSP	
2	September 10, 2015	Chapter 3 - Be Proactive	Automathography, Heap Letter
3	September 17, 2015	Chapter 4 - See it	Symmetry
4	September 24, 2015	Chapter 4 - See it, Chapter 5 - Simplify it	Prom Problem
5	October 1, 2015	Chapter 5 - Simplify it, Exam #1	Parking Lot
6	October 8, 2015	Chapter 6 - Stir it up	Forty Thieves
7	October 15, 2015	Chapter 6 - Stir it up	Should you Switch?
8	October 22, 2015	Chapter 7 - Pause and Reflect	Faculty Debts
9	October 29, 2015	Chaps 8,9 - Interpersonal, Communication	Grilled Cheese
10	November 5, 2015	Estimation	Grappling with Groups
11	November 12, 2015	Review and Exam #2	Maple Tree (10 ways to measure)
12	November 19, 2015	Revisit PSSSP and work on Final Project	House Hunt
13	November 26, 2015	Thanksgiving!	
14	December 3, 2015	Revisit PSSSP and review for Final Exam	True and False
15	December 10, 2015	Present Final Project	

Grading

The two exams will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester. No make-up exams will be given. If an emergency arises and you must miss an exam, you are responsible for notifying me before the exam or you will not get credit for that exam.

2 exams	25.0%
Homework / Classwork	**50.0%**
Project	12.5%
Final Exam	12.5%
Total	100.0%