# Math 1020Q - 01 Course Description - Problem Solving

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Office Hours: Thursday 3:00 - 3:30 PM, and by appointment

**Meeting Times** 3:30 - 5:50 PM Thursdays in Monteith 319

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

## General Information

**Goals:** 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 | August 29, 2019 | Chapters 1,2 - Problem Solving, PSSSP | |
| 2 | September 5, 2019 | Chapter 3 - Be Proactive | Automathography, Heap Letter (pg 4) |
| 3 | September 12, 2019 | Chapter 4 - See it | Symmetry (pg 140) |
| 4 | September 19, 2019 | Chapter 4 - See it, Chapter 5 - Simplify it | Best Friends (see HuskyCT) |
| 5 | September 26, 2019 | Chapter 5 - Simplify it, **Exam #1** | Parking Lot (pg 131) |
| 6 | October 3, 2019 | Chapter 6 - Stir it up | Forty Thieves (pg 122) |
| 7 | October 10, 2019 | Chapter 6 - Stir it up | Should you Switch? (pg 139) |
| 8 | October 17, 2019 | Chapter 7 - Pause and Reflect | Stretch #57 (pg 107) |
| 9 | October 24, 2019 | Chaps 8,9 - Interpersonal, Communication | Grilled Cheese (pg 124) |
| 10 | October 31, 2019 | Estimation | Grappling with Groups (pg 123) |
| 11 | November 7, 2019 | Review and **Exam #2** | Beech Tree (10 ways to measure) |
| 12 | November 14, 2019 | Revisit PSSSP and work on Final Project | Neighbors (see HuskyCT) |
| 13 | November 21, 2019 | Thanksgiving Break - no classes | |
| 14 | November 28, 2019 | Revisit PSSSP and review for Final Exam | True and False (pg 143) |
| 15 | December 5, 2019 | Present Final Project | |

## Grading

The two exams will be scheduled as you see above. 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.

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

Final exam week takes place from Monday, Dec 9th through Sunday, Dec 15, 2019. Students are required to be available for their exam during the stated time. If you have a conflict with this time, you must visit the Dean of Students Office to discuss the possibility of rescheduling this exam. Please note that vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, social events, misreading the exam schedule and over-sleeping are not viable excuses for missing a final exam. If you think that your situation warrants permission to reschedule, please contact the Dean of Students Office with any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.