

MATH 2794W
MATHEMATICAL WRITING SEMINAR
FALL 2015

Important Links

Assignment Info	Final Paper Info	Grade Distribution	Course Documents	LaTeX Resources

Course and Instructor Information

Instructor:	Alan Parry	**Email:**	alan.parry@uconn.edu	**Phone:**	860-486-3939
Office:	MSB 222	**Office Hours:**	TuTh 12:30pm - 2:00pm		
Classroom:	MSB 215	**Class Time:**	MW 5:45pm - 6:35pm		
Wednesday Talks Room:	MSB 203	**Talk Time:**	W 5:45pm		

Course Description

Course Description: The student will attend talks during the semester, and choose a mathematical topic from one of them to investigate in detail. The student will write a well-revised, comprehensive paper on this topic, including a literature review, description of technical details, and a summary and discussion.

Course Prerequisites: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011; Math 2110Q (or 2130Q or 2143Q) and one of Math 2210Q or 2410Q or 2420Q or 2144Q.

Required Textbook: None

Final Paper Due: Monday, December 14 at 8:00pm BY EMAIL

Assignments

There will be at least 5 writing assignments of 1 - 2 pages in length that you will have an opportunity to revise after the first submission. There may be other assignments which may include editing writing samples, LaTeX practice sheets, etc. You will also be required to attend at least 7 Wednesday talks during the semester and submit 7 comments forms (one for each talk) for those talks. These comments forms will be due BY EMAIL at 7pm on the Friday after the talk was given. NO comment forms will be accepted late. If you miss the comment form deadline, you will have to attend another talk and submit the comment form for that talk by the due date for that talk.

Final Paper

Final Paper: The course will culminate in a 7 - 10 page paper written on a subject chosen from the first 7 Wednesday lectures. The Final Paper is due Monday, December 14 at 8:00pm BY EMAIL. You will have to research the topic to find out details that expand on the information in the talk itself. Progress towards this paper will be tracked via deadlines for different phases of the paper preparation. You can submit each of these different tasks early and may submit more than one draft if desired. Late submissions of any one of these components will incur a penalty to your overall Final Paper grade. Late Submission of the Final Draft without a valid and verified explanation will result in a score of 0 for the Final Paper grade. The deadlines for the different components of this paper are as follows (all submissions are due via email):

Topic Selection:	Friday, October 23 at 7pm
Outline and Bibliography:	Friday, November 6 at 7pm
First Complete Draft:	Wednesday, December 2 at 7pm
Final Draft:	Monday, December 14 at 8pm

LaTeX

The final paper, all writing assignments, all comment forms, all LaTeX practices, and most editing/writing practices will be required to be completed in LaTeX and submitted via email. The first week of class will cover the basics of using LaTeX. However, see the LaTeX resources below for extra help. As we will go over a lot of things on the computer in class, it is highly recommended that you bring your laptop to class. Please also try to have a LaTeX distribution and front-end (like MikTeX and TeXWorks) installed before the first class.

Grade Distribution

Scores for assignments and the final paper will account for the following portions of your final grade.

20% Talk Comment Forms

20% Writing/Editing Practice

30% Writing Assignments

30% Final Paper

According to university-wide policies for W courses, you cannot pass this course unless you receive a passing grade for its writing components. As such, failure to obtain a passing grade in either the Writing Assignments or Final Paper categories will result in an F for the course regardless of your scores in the other categories.

Miscellaneous Information

Writing Center: There is free writing tutoring available from the Writing Center. You can bring your drafts there for some advice before submission. See the Writing Center website for more information on when tutors are on duty (Writing Center website).

Absences and Make-Up Work: It is solely your responsibility to be in class. I will not take roll (although roll will be taken at the Wednesday talks, your attendance will only count if you submit the talk comment form). If you miss class due to illness or other reasons, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a friend and/or find out from me or others what we covered in class. Policies regarding missed work in any of these categories can be found in the appropriate section above.

Academic Integrity: Honesty and integrity are essential in a strong education; if you cheat, lie, or plagiarize, you are disadvantaging yourself as well as others. As such, cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. You have the freedom to use whatever resources available to you for assignments. However, any questionable behavior should be avoided, i.e. if you have a question about whether something you are doing or plan to do is cheating, either ask me about it or simply do not do it. Any deviation from these required behaviors will constitute a violation of the Student Code and will result in severe consequences. These consequences may include, but are not limited to, receiving a 0 for that particular exam, receiving an "F" for the entire course, and/or my sending of a letter to the Dean of Students. For more information, see the full version of the Student Code of Conduct.

General Expectations: All of you are collegiate level students and as such I expect collegiate level commitment to this class. This is an important class even if you think it is not essential to your future job or major. A solid math background is vital to any well rounded education and will benefit you in ways that you may not realize right now. For example, math courses build essential problem solving skills that will help you solve problems in general, not just problems related to the course material. As such, it is very important for you to take this course seriously and work hard. Complete all of the assignments, attend all of the classes, and get any and all extra help that you may need throughout the course. Don't just do it for the sake of a grade, but do it for the sake of your own education.

Course Documents

Course Syllabus

Course Syllabus

Writing Assignments and LaTeX Practices

LaTeX Practice 1

LaTeX Practice 2

Picture File for LaTeX Practice 2

Writing Assignment 1

Writing Assignment 2

Writing Assignment 3

Comment Forms (TeX files)

Talk Comment Form Template

Peer Review Form Template

Final Paper Resources

In Class Outline Example (LaTeX) (PDF) Don't forget to include your bibliography.

LaTeX Resources

Step 1: Pronounce LaTeX correctly (pronounced "lay-tek" or if you have to "lah-tek"; it is certainly not pronounced "lay-teks" like the stretchy material nor is it pronounced "L.A. tek").

Step 2: Download a LaTeX distribution and a LaTeX editor. Free editors include TeXworks and TeXShop. Both of these editors will have instructions on how to get a LaTeX distribution set up to work with the editor. If you are running a windows machine, I recommend getting and installing MiKTeX(pronounced "mick-tek") which is a LaTeX distribution that includes a copy of TeXworks.

Step 3: Use a great reference like the Not So Short Introduction to LaTeX by Tobias Oetiker et al. or this LaTeX Cheat Sheet by Winston Chang.