

# Discrete Mathematics I (Math 131)

<http://jriedy.users.sonic.net/VI/math131-f08/>

MWF 10.00am-10.50am, Fall 2008, Virginia Intermont College

Instructor: Jason Riedy <[jason@acm.org](mailto:jason@acm.org)>

## 1 Goals

- Gain fluency in and practice with the language that is mathematics.
- Apply mathematical reasoning to historical and modern problems.
- Explore problem solving skills within the realm of discrete mathematics.

## 2 Text

Miller, Charles D.; Heeren, Vern E.; Hornsby, John; and Morrow, Margaret L. *Mathematical Ideas*, tenth edition. Addison Wesley, 2003. ISBN 0-321-16808-9

## 3 Instructor

Ways to reach me:

- Preferably by email: Jason Riedy <[jason@acm.org](mailto:jason@acm.org)>
- Instant messages (sometimes): [jason.riedy@gmail.com](mailto:jason.riedy@gmail.com)
- office hours: TBD or by appointment. (Often in Java J's in Bristol or Zazzy'Z in Abingdon.)

## 4 Grading

Standard 10-point scale, 3 points on either side for -/+ grades. The homework is 20%, three mid-term exams are 20% each, and the final counts for 40%. This adds to 120%; the final counts as two 20% scores, and the lowest 20% score is dropped.

### 4.1 On homework

Some problems will be given in every class. The week's problems will be collected on the following Monday. Solutions should be written as explanations and not as sequences of expressions. Mathematics is a social endeavour. Groups are encouraged, but everyone must turn in their own work. At some point, you will be asked to present a homework problem and its solution to the class. Also, there may be solutions available for problems. But try tackling the problem **yourself** (or with your group) first. Practice is important.

## 5 Initial Syllabus

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18 August through 17 September	Chapters 1, 2, and 3
Friday, 19 September	<b>First exam</b>
22 September through 29 October	Chapters 4, 5, and 6 (including computer arithmetic)
Friday, 31 October	<b>Second exam</b>
3 November through 26 November	Chapters 7 and 8 (and some matrix algebra, if time)
28 November	<b>Third exam</b>
1 and 3 December	Review
Wednesday, 10 December, 10.30am-12.30pm	<b>Final exam</b>

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## 6 Resources

See the home page at <http://jriedy.users.sonic.net/VI/math131-f08/> .