

MA 201  
Mathematics for Elementary Teachers  
Section 003/004

**Instructor:** Deborah Wilkerson

**Office Address:** Patterson Office Tower 702

**Email:** deborah.wilkerson@uky.edu

**Office hours:** TR 9:30am – 11:00am, POT 702

**Meeting Times:** Section 003 TR 11:00am – 12:15pm  
Section 004 TR 12:30pm – 1:45pm

**Course Description**

MA 201: Sets, numbers and operations, problem solving and number theory. Recommended only for majors in elementary and middle school education. Prereq: MA 109 or MA 111 or consent of department.

**Textbook**

We will be using the book *Mathematical Practices: Mathematics for Teachers* by Ron Larson and Robyn Silbey. Students are expected to read the sections in the text *before* we cover them in class. All relevant course materials will be posted on Canvas.

**Introduction**

MA 201: In this course, we will cover Chapters 2-8 in the textbook.

This course will provide future elementary educators with the mathematical background needed for teaching elementary school mathematics. The emphasis of the course is on developing conceptual knowledge, which is a requirement for effectively communicating mathematics to elementary school students. We will concentrate on the *why* more than the *how*. This is not a pedagogy course! This is an upper level college mathematics course in which you will acquire mathematical skills to use in future education courses.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete MA 201

- Have a comprehensive knowledge of elementary school mathematics.
- Can describe the standard concepts of elementary mathematics in several ways and be familiar with various mathematical modeling techniques.
- Understand and appreciate the importance of mathematics in the elementary school curriculum and effectively advocate mathematics to students.

**Motivation**

You graduated from elementary school, so why do you need to take this course? This course is not a repeat of elementary school mathematics. You will learn the same concepts but on a much deeper level. This will help you effectively explain mathematics to your future students. For example, rather than being able to correctly add two fractions, you will

know several models to aid in the teaching of adding fractions and explain why they work. To teach mathematics effectively at any level:

- Your mathematical understanding of the concepts you teach must be much deeper than the procedural level. You must be able to explain why and how mathematics works.
- You need to be familiar with many ways of describing and modeling mathematical concepts.
- You must have the ability understand students' difficulties and have flexibility to accommodate individual student learning styles.

### **Attendance**

A portion of your final grade will be determined by attendance and class participation. This is explained in the *Course Grading* section of this syllabus. This class is very interactive. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. The list of excused absences includes illness, death of a family member, any trips organized by the university, and religious holidays. Excused absences must be reported as soon as possible, within a week at the latest. Appropriate notification of absences due to university-related trips is required prior to the absence. *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2.*

To report an absence, **email me (your name, section, date, reason, and suggestion of when you would like to make up the quiz)** at the email address provided above within one business day of the absence. You are also expected to furnish proof demonstrating the cause compelling you to miss class at the next class meeting for which you are present.

*Work can only be made up for two unexcused absences.* Unexcused absences include missing class entirely without an excuse, showing up more than 10 minutes late or leaving early without an excuse, and neglecting to stay on task. If there are special circumstances that will require you to be late to class or must leave early on a regular basis, please contact me as soon as possible.

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused) per University policy.

### **Participation/Professionalism**

I expect you to participate by being present, engaging in group activities, asking, and answering questions. This includes bringing your textbook if you need it, something to write with and on, and anything else you might need. Students are expected to ask questions when they don't understand something.

### **Classroom Policies**

Due to the nature of this course, students will not be permitted to use a calculator unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Therefore, using a calculator (except on occasions when the instructor deems it appropriate) will be considered cheating. Cellphones and other electronic devices should be set to silent (not vibrate) and should not disrupt class in

any fashion. If you expect an urgent phone call, please inform me before class. I do not allow texting inside the classroom. Please talk to me if you would like to use a tablet for taking notes.

Discrimination is prohibited at UK. If you experience an incident of discrimination we encourage you to report it to Institutional Equity & Equal Opportunity (IEEO) Office, 13 Main Building, (859) 257-8927.

### **Homework**

Mathematics requires practice. You will be expected to submit daily homework assignments to practice and demonstrate what you learn in class. Homework will be checked for completion at the beginning of each class.

Late homework will only be accepted for *up to two* unexcused absences. Beyond this, no late homework will be accepted for any reason aside from the University Excused Absences as described in SR 5.2.4.2. In the event of an absence, you are expected to turn in your assignment within one week of the absence.

These assignments are given to assist you in your preparations for the course exams and your future career as a teacher. It is to your benefit to complete them. Your work should be written in full sentences. You are allowed (and even encouraged) to work with others on your homework, but should write up your solutions on your own. Zeroes will be given for any assignment on which work is not shown or cheating of any kind is evident. SR 6.3.1.

### **Quizzes**

There will be short daily quizzes, based on the homework that was due that day. These quizzes will be given *after* students have had a chance to ask/answer any questions based on that homework assignment. These quizzes will be graded for accuracy and provide you with feedback necessary for the successful completion of exams.

Quizzes missed due to an absence must be made up outside of class time within one week of the absence. Up to two quizzes from unexcused absences may be made up, while quizzes from any excused absence may be made up. You are responsible for scheduling a time to make up the quiz.

### **Presentations**

Small groups (~ 3 members) will give short presentations on Exam Review days of an activity from the textbook or the NCTM Illuminations website that covers a portion of the material for the upcoming exam. These presentations should only last 10 minutes per group and three different groups will present on each review day. This leaves 45 minutes of class time for a full-class review.

The presentation will be graded and will provide you a chance to practice effectively teaching and communicating mathematics. You will also submit a short self-reflection, about a page, discussing how you think your group presentation went, how it may have

been improved, and how you think the class reacted. Reflections are due the class following your presentation (one week later). The group presentation activity and the self-reflection will each contribute half of your presentation grade.

Further details for presentations will be given within the first weeks of class.

### Exams

You will complete three in-class exams this semester, as well as one final exam. If you need a make-up or alternate exam, please follow university policy to obtain one. Calculators, notes, and books are strictly forbidden, unless otherwise specified in class. The **tentative dates** for exams are as follows:

Exam #1: Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, in class

Exam #2: Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, in class

Exam #3: Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, in class

Final Exam: **see UK final exam schedule for Spring 2018**, in classroom

The final exam will be cumulative with an emphasis on the material covered after Exam 3.

### Course Grading

The breakdown of your course grade is as follows:

Homework	8 %
Quizzes	12%
Presentation	8 %
Exam 1	18%
Exam 2	18%
Exam 3	18%
Final Exam	18%
TOTAL	100 %

Points for homework and quizzes will be given as follows:

*Homework* – 2 points possible. You will receive full credit if your homework is complete and work/explanations are given. You will receive one point for partial completion of homework or complete homework without work shown. This counts as your attendance.

*Quizzes* – 5 points possible. Quizzes will generally have two or three questions. Grades will be determined based upon correct solutions, shown work, and correct English/grammar.

Grading scale for undergraduates:

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
E	Below 60%

### Important Semester Dates

- Wednesday, January 10: First day of classes
- Monday, January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Academic Holiday
- Wednesday, January 17: Last day to add a class
- Wednesday, January 31: Last day to drop a class without receiving a grade
- Monday, March 5: Midterm of 2018 Spring semester
- Mon-Fri, March 12-16: Spring Break – No classes.
- Friday, March 30: Last day to withdraw from a class
- Friday, April 27: Last Day of Classes
- Mon-Fri, April 30 – May 4: Final Examinations
- Friday, May 4: End of 2018 Spring semester

NOTE: A student who drops a class on or before January 31st, will receive no grade. A student who withdraws after January 31st, will receive a grade of W. After March 30<sup>th</sup>, no student will be allowed to withdraw unless his/her dean determines that unusual circumstances merit the withdrawal.

**Academic Integrity, Cheating and Plagiarism:** You should feel free to study with friends, but any work you submit for a grade should be your own work. This applies to all exams, quizzes and written assignments; with the exception of assignments that are specifically designated as group assignments. Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, copying a classmate's work, allowing a classmate to copy your work, modifying an exam after it has been handed back in an attempt to deceive the instructor into believing the assignment was graded incorrectly, using cell phone/device during an exam. A student found guilty of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic E on the assignment, and in some cases the offense may lead to an E in the course, academic probation, or even expulsion. See sections 6.3.1 and 6.3.2 of the University Senate Rules for more information regarding academic integrity. You can also refer to the website <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty.

### **Accommodations**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. To receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Letters must be received at least one week prior to the requested accommodation. The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. DRC Contact: (859) 257-2754 and [drc@uky.edu](mailto:drc@uky.edu). Their web address is <http://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter>.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Information**

The University of Kentucky faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination policy.

- Discrimination is prohibited at UK. If you experience an incident of discrimination we encourage you to report it to Institutional Equity & Equal Opportunity (IEEO) Office, 13 Main Building, (859) 257-8927.
- Acts of Sex- and Gender-Based Discrimination or Interpersonal Violence

If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination or interpersonal violence, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member or TA/RA/GA, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University these individuals MUST report any acts of violence (including verbal bullying and sexual harassment) to the University's Title IX Coordinator in the IEEO Office. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, the Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) program (Frazee Hall – Lower Level; <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/VIPCenter/>), the Counseling Center (106 Frazee Hall, <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Counseling/>), and the University Health Services (<http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/uhs/student-health/>) are confidential resources on campus.

### **UK Mathematics Department Professional Themes**

This course will address the four themes of the conceptual framework for the UK professional education program: research, reflection, learning and leading. Students will engage with fundamental ideas in mathematical research, reflecting on and analyzing core mathematical content that arise throughout mathematics at all levels. Students will develop as life-long mathematical learners who will be able to take active leadership roles in their future roles as professionals and citizens. The goal in addressing these four themes is to produce teacher leaders who work together to improve student learning among diverse populations and improve education in Kentucky and beyond.

### **Unbridled Learning Initiatives and the Kentucky Core Academic Standards**

This course will provide students an opportunity to advance their knowledge and mastery of the tools associated with Kentucky education reform, focusing on the content and practice standards outlined in the Kentucky Core Academic Standards. As students carry out projects and complete assignments that involve mathematical content underlying

instructional activities for P-12 students in Kentucky schools, they will address one or more components of the Unbridled Learning Initiatives.

### **MA 201 Course Coordinator**

Amy Green [mrs.amy.green@uky.edu](mailto:mrs.amy.green@uky.edu)

### **How to succeed**

- Come to my office hours and email me as soon as you have questions.
- Read the book and study your notes.
- Form a study group with fellow classmates.
- Make a study plan.
- Find additional help and resources at The Mathskell3er CB 063 or The Study.

*“The greatest glory in living, lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall.”*

*~ Nelson Mandela*

### **Grading Policy**

Any questions you have regarding the grading of one of your assignments must be addressed within two weeks of the material being returned to you. Please come to my office hours to discuss any questions.

### **Typical Class**

During the first 25 minutes of class, you will be given the opportunity to ask questions on the homework due that day. Once a list of questions has been compiled, students will be given the opportunity to write solutions on the board and present them. While solutions are being written, I will walk around the classroom and check homework for completion. We will then discuss the problems on the board and after you will take a short quiz based *strongly* on the homework.

The next 30 minutes of class I will lecture. There may be times during lecture I ask you to work with a partner or small group on a question or example, which we will then discuss as a class.

During the last 20 minutes, we will split into groups and work on a worksheet or activity and then discuss what we have learned as a class. There will be days without activities, during which the last 20 minutes will be lecture.

### **Course Help**

If you find that you need help in the course, THEN YOU SHOULD SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!! Email or stop by my office hours. If the posted office hours do not work with your schedule, please ask about an appointment. I attempt to answer all emails within 24 hours on week days and 48 hours on weekends.

Remember, you earn your grade for this class; I do not GIVE out any grades. Therefore, I expect everyone to try and do his or her best. You are responsible for your own experience in this class and university. Make it a great one!

### **Changes**

I reserve the right to make changes or amend this syllabus at any time. In this event, proper notice will be given.

### **Helpful Links**

Kentucky Academic Standards -

<https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/standards/kyacadstand/Pages/default.aspx>

NCTM Illuminations -

<https://illuminations.nctm.org/>