

# MA 201 – Mathematics for Elementary Teachers

## Sections 005 & 006

University of Kentucky, Department of Mathematics

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Course Webpage: [www.ms.uky.edu/~jkilty/ma201.htm](http://www.ms.uky.edu/~jkilty/ma201.htm)

**Office Hours:** T 10:00-11:00

T 1:00-1:55

R 1:00-1:55

Other times by appointment.

**Meeting Times:** Section 005 – TR 2:00 - 3:15, CB 341

Section 006 – TR 3:30 - 4:45, CB 343

**Textbook:** *Mathematical Reasoning for Elementary Teachers* by Long, DeTemple, Millman (ISBN: 9780321460844). We will cover chapters 1-7 of the text in the following order: 2,3,1,4,5,6,7.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to deepen the content understanding of mathematics needed for teaching elementary and middle school mathematics and to do so in such a way that emphasizes the national and Kentucky standards and principles for school mathematics. Students should expect to interact in groups frequently throughout the semester. Many of the examples and homework problems with come from actual K-6 student work.

**Prerequisites:** MA 109 or equivalent.

**Attendance and Tardy Policy:** Student attendance is absolutely essential to student success. Every student should be in class for every class session unless there is an emergency or university defined excused absence. However, attendance will not be monitored except during the weeks of student presentations. Arriving tardy to a class is a disturbance to the students and a distraction to the instructor. Therefore, it is mandatory that you arrive to class on time every day. If there is a scheduling problem that prevents this please inform me as soon as possible.

**Office Hours:** Office hours are a time that I have set aside during the week to meet with my students and answer their questions regarding the class and the homework. You are strongly encouraged to stop by during this time as it is set aside for you. If you are unable to come to my office during office hours but you still have questions please set a time to meet with me that works in your schedule.

**Cell Phones:** The use of cell phones is not permitted during class. Students are asked to turn their cell phones off or turn the ringer completely off. I ask that students do not put their cell phones on vibrate as this can cause the same distraction as if the phone actually rings. Text messaging is not permitted during class. Although this might not cause distraction to other students it does distract me while I am lecturing. If I notice a student “texting” during class I will call on the student to put their phone away immediately. If the problem persists the student may be dismissed from the class for the day. This is a matter of respect to the instructor and will be monitored.

**Homework:** Regular homework assignments are a vital part of any math course. Homework will be assigned each Thursday and will be due the following Thursday. Students are expected to complete every problem that is assigned. Each assignment will be scored out of 10 points with 4 points awarded for having attempted every problem and 6 points awarded for a correct solution to problems selected by the instructor (the problems graded for correctness will not be announced ahead of time). Homework is due at the beginning of the class on the day it is due and will not be accepted late without a university excused absence. Students are encouraged to work together on problems but each student must submit their own solution written in their own words. Solutions to all problems should be complete, clearly organized and labeled.

**Reading Quizzes:** Reading the textbook for the course is important to student learning but is often looked upon by students as being unimportant. To encourage students to utilize the textbook to its full potential, students will be required to read assigned sections of the text. Each Tuesday there will be a short quiz covering the assigned reading material. The questions will consist of definitions, explanation of a concept, or a simple exercise that can be successfully completed simply by reading the text and understanding the examples. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and makeup quizzes will not be given; however, the two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

**Exams:** There will be three midterm exams and a cumulative final exam, for a total of four exams. The final exam will be comprehensive from the beginning of the semester with an emphasis on the material covered since the third midterm exam. Calculators will be allowed at the discretion of the instructor and will change with each test. I will announce a week before each exam whether or not a calculator may be used. If you miss an exam a makeup exam will be administered only if the student provides a university approved excuse. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor ahead of time if possible if they must

miss an exam. However, in all cases, I must be contacted no later than the day of the exam regarding the absence and scheduling a time to make up the exam. Thus, if you are sick, you must contact me the day of the exam if you need to reschedule the exam.

**Project:** One requirement of all MA 201 students is that they give an oral presentation to the class. The details of this assignment as well as group assignments will be distributed approximately three weeks before the presentations are to begin. Each group member must contribute to the group and a lack of participation will affect your grade on the assignment. Out of respect for the presenters, attendance is mandatory during the student presentations and will be closely monitored. Failure to attend will negatively affect your project grade.

**Grading:** Your grade for the course will be broken down as follows:

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Presentation	15%
Homework	10%
Reading Quizzes	5%
Final Exam	25%

The standard grading scale will be employed; i.e 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, 60 or below E.

**Important Dates:** There are several important dates that you need to be aware of that I have summarized here for your easy reference.

Last day to withdraw without a W	September 17
Exam 1 – Chapters 2,3	September 23
Exam 2 – Chapters 1,4	October 21
No class – Election Day	November 4
Last day to withdraw with a W	November 7
Exam 3 – Chapters 5,6	November 25
No class – Thanksgiving holiday	November 27
Last day of class	December 11
Final Exam – Section 005	December 18, 10:30AM
Final Exam – Section 006	December 19, 3:30PM

**Expectations:** I feel that it is important to inform the students at the beginning of the semester of my expectations for them. Here is what I expect of each of my students:

1. I expect that each student shows up for each class period on time and ready to work hard for the next 75 minutes.

2. I expect each student to work to the best of their ability to solve the problems that are assigned in class.
3. I expect each student to work hard to achieve the best grade that they can and not to simply settle for a lower grade than they are capable of simply to have less work to do.
4. I expect each student to come to class prepared, having read the covered material in the class text, studied their class notes, and having attempted the homework problems.
5. I expect that each student come to me as soon as they begin to have trouble in the course and to ask competent and specific questions.
6. I expect that each student not be scared of the course simply because it is a math course and to try and have a great semester learning mathematics together.

Just as I have expectations for my students, the students should have expectations of me. Following are some things that you should expect from me as your instructor.

1. Students should expect that I come to each class prepared; that is, I have a complete understanding of the material to be discussed and that I can solve all of the problems to be discussed that day.
2. Students should expect that I act professionally and that I treat each student fairly and with the upmost respect.
3. Students should expect that I return graded assignments quickly and that I grade all assignments fairly and consistently.
4. Students should expect that I am available during my scheduled office hours and am prompt for all scheduled meetings with students.
5. Students should expect that I am approachable and am willing to work hard to help them learn the concepts at hand.
6. Students should expect that I respond to emails promptly and address all matters contained in a students email.