Dr. Charles Rocca
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MAT 150 - 01: Mathematics Seminar I
Fridays 12-12:50pm, Higgins 103
Credits: 0.5 credits
General Education: FY Competency

WESTERN
CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY
MACRICOSTAS
SCHOOL OF ARTS
& SCIENCES

Office Hours:

Office hours are on ground for the Fall 2023 Semester. If you need to meet virtually we can make an appointment to do so via my WebEx Virtual Office: Higgins 101-DV (https://wcsu.webex.com/meet/roccac)

- Monday & Thursday: 11am - 12pm, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

- Friday: 1pm - 2pm

- or by appointment

Course Materials:

- *Will This Be on The Test: What your professors really want you to know about succeeding in college,* by Dana T. Johnson (Princeton University Press, ISBN: 978-0-691-17953-7)

- Loose Leaf Paper, Planner.

Course Description:

This course is designed to give you a chance to get to know the faculty in the Math department. You will hear talks from many of the faculty which will give you an idea of the sort of things in which they are interested. Further, you will be introduced to and encouraged to explore some of the resources available to you through the university so you can make the most of your time here at WCSU. After successful completion of this course students will have satisfied the FY General Education Competency.

First Year Outcomes:

After completing this FY course, students will be able to:

- Understand the physical and virtual WCSU campus.

- Identify university community resources, including faculty, staff, and administration.

- Understand the necessary procedures that contribute to academic success and graduation at Western.

- Understand the culture and expectations of academics at the university level

- Understand habits and practices necessary for continuing academic success.

Grading:

This is a pass/fail course, the assignments you need to complete are listed below. I will grade all your work on a check (2 points)/check plus (3 points)/check minus (1 point) scale. Any time an assignment makes reference to an FY Module, the module can be found on the First Year Web Page (https://www.wcsu.edu/firstyear/) Including the class notes you will have about 26 grades for a maximum of 78 points; you need a total of at least 57 points in order to pass.

Syllabus Quiz: (3 points) On this quiz you will need to demonstrate that you have read your syllabus and made note of key elements from throughout the entire document. ***Due 9/8/2023.***

Notes: (3 points each × 11 = 33 points) First you need to complete the Note Taking Module and submit proof that you completed the online quiz (take a screen shot and print it out or email it to me). Then, for each class meeting, you will need to take a brief page of notes that you will hand in at the end of the class. They must include: your name, the speakers name, the topic of the talk, and two or three points of interest or facts from the talk. ***Weekly.***

Reading Reflections: (3 points each × 7 = 21) For Each of the readings from the text you will need to write a few sentences about what you got from the reading. Your responses must include at least two ideas from the reading that you found interesting and at least one question the reading made you think about. ***Dates and readings are listed below.***

Two Weeks of Schedule Tracking: (3 points each × 2 = 6) The purpose of this is to help you figure out where your time is going and how you can best use your time to get the most from your education. For each of these you must also write a brief reflection on your schedule indicating where you think you could improve your time management. Finally, in between the first and second times you track your schedule you need to complete the Managing Your Time Module and submit proof that you completed the online quiz. There are two blank schedules at the end of this syllabus which you can use for tracking your time, but I encourage you to also try typing this up using Word and/or Excel. ***Due September 22nd and October 6th.***

Resource Signature Sheet: (3 points each) Attached to the syllabus is a form which lists important academic resources. You need to track down these resources, visit each one, and obtain a signature to prove you were there. ***Due September 29th***

Office Hour Signature Sheet: (3 points each) Attached to the syllabus there is a blank sheet on which you can list all you classes. For each class you need to list the class, its meeting time, the instructors name and office hours, and finally visit them during office hours to get their signature. ***Due October 20th***

Registration Preparation: (3 points) First complete the Degree Works and Registration Module, then you will need to try to locate a copy of your program sheet online and then use Banner (or Degree Works) to get a copy of your transcript and fill in your program sheet. Bring your completed program sheet and transcript to class. You should also contact your advisor and make an appointment for advising. ***Due October 13th.***

Interesting Fact Email: (3 points) Give me one or two brief facts about yourself that other people might not know but which you think are interesting and don't mind sharing. Think in terms of hobbies or how you spent your summer. You will submit this assignment as an email; you need to compose it as a formal email to me with appropriate salutation and closing. ***Due November 17th.***

Letter of Recommendation to Yourself: (3 points) First complete the modules on Goal Setting and Motivation and Exploring Careers. Then, put yourself in the position of a faculty member or another person on campus and draft a letter of recommendation for yourself. Put in the letter things that you hope that someone would be able to write about you by the time you graduate. This letter can help you plan goals for yourself by envisioning what it is you want to accomplish and who you want to be. ***Due December 15th***

Extra Credit (up to 6 points): Earn up to 6 points of extra credit by attending events on campus or by joining a professional organization related to your career goals.

Course Calendar:

Friday
9/1   **1** Welcome to WCSU, Syllabus and Introductions
9/8   **2** Speaker: Hall, Readings: Chapters 5 & 6, pp.49-67, Syllabus Quiz
9/15 Day of Service - No Class Before 1pm
9/22   **3** Speaker: Christofi and Shoushani, Readings: Chapters 2 & 3, pp.17-36, Assn.: 1st Schedule
9/29   **4** Speaker: Perrelli, Readings: Chapters 11 & 13, pp. 81-101, Assn.: Resource Signature Sheet
10/6   **5** Speaker: Rocca, Readings: Chapters 8 & 9, pp.115-126 & pp. 141-152, Assn.: 2nd Schedule
10/13   **6** Speaker: Zavatkay (Registrar), Assn.: Registration Wrap Up
10/20   **7** Speaker: Rocca, Readings: Chapters 12 & 14, pp.127-140 & pp.153-166, Assn.: Office Hour Signature Sheet
10/27   **8** Speaker: Burns
11/3   **9** Speaker: Lindenmayer (Career Services), Readings: Chapter 4, pp.37-48, ***Meet in the Life Design Lab on the 3rd floor of the Westside Campus Center***
11/10   **10** Speaker: Maida
11/17   **11** Speaker: Hayes, Assn.: Interesting Fact Email
11/24 Thanksgiving Recess - No Class
12/1   **12** Speaker: Christofi
12/8   **13** Semester Wrap Up, Readings: Chapters 10, pp.102-114
12/15   **14** Assn.: Personal Recommendation Letter

You and Your Grades:

- "A" (Exceptional) range 90% to 100%:
  The student has demonstrated significant mastery of the appropriate knowledge and skills relevant to the course. The student is able to solve standard formulaic exercises and most nonstandard problems which require deeper insight.

  - "A" $\Longleftrightarrow 92.5\% \leq Grade \leq 100\%$
  - "A-" $\Longleftrightarrow 90\% \leq Grade < 92.5\%$

- "B" (Good) range 80% to 90%:
  The student has demonstrated mastery of the appropriate knowledge and skills relevant to the course. The student is able to solve standard formulaic exercises and some nonstandard problems which require deeper insight.

  - "B+" $\Longleftrightarrow 87.5\% \leq Grade < 90\%$
  - "B" $\Longleftrightarrow 82.5\% \leq Grade < 87.5\%$
  - "B-" $\Longleftrightarrow 80\% \leq Grade < 82.5\%$

- "C" (Adequate) range 70% to 80%:
  The student has demonstrated adequate mastery of the appropriate knowledge and skills relevant to the course. The student is able to solve most standard formulaic exercises but struggles with nonstandard problems which require deeper insight.

  - "C+" $\Longleftrightarrow 77.5\% \leq Grade < 80\%$
  - "C" $\Longleftrightarrow 72.5\% \leq Grade < 77.5\%$
  - "C-" $\Longleftrightarrow 70\% \leq Grade < 72.5\%$

- "D" (Inadequate) range 60% to 70%:
  The student has demonstrated inadequate or incomplete mastery of the appropriate knowledge and skills relevant to the course. The student is able to solve some standard formulaic exercises but few if any nonstandard problems which require deeper insight.

  - "D+" $\Longleftrightarrow 67.5\% \leq Grade < 70\%$
  - "D" $\Longleftrightarrow 62.5\% \leq Grade < 67.5\%$
  - "D-" $\Longleftrightarrow 60\% \leq Grade < 62.5\%$

- "F" (Unacceptable) below 60%:
  The student has demonstrated essentially no mastery of the appropriate knowledge and skills relevant to the course. The student is unable to solve most standard formulaic exercises and essentially no nonstandard problems which require deeper insight.

End User Agreement:

General Expectations: As a student in this class you are expected to:

- attend class and take notes,
- actively read material in each section, taking notes,
- review your notes on a regular basis,
- check your university email every day,
- check the class site *at least* every other day,
- begin studying for exams in a timely fashion,
- ask questions early and often,
- attend office hours,
- seek help in the math clinic or tutoring center, and
- complete assignments and readings on time.

Assignment Guidelines: (These apply to *all out of class work*.)

- Work handed in must always look neat, legible, and professional. Work must be very neatly written or preferably typed. The quality of your work will be factored into your grade, up to 10%, in extreme cases work may be rejected and then counted as late.

- Answers on all assignments should be given in complete sentences. I should be able to tell what your answer means without re-reading the problem. This does not mean you simply rewrite the question.

- An assignment is considered late after I have handed it back or gone over it in class. Late assignments are accepted but may receive at most 75% credit. Late assignments go to the absolute bottom of the stack of papers to be graded; *all on time work is graded before any late work.*

- If you work on an assignment as part of a group, then there may be no more than three individuals in the group and all your names must be on the assignment. You should hand in only one copy of the work.

- All work must be submitted in the manner directed.

Email Etiquette Guidelines: When sending an email you must include the course number and semester in the subject line. For example, if you are taking MAT 314 in Fall 1592 then the the subject line should begin with "[MAT 314 Fall 1592]." Also, you should always begin with a salutation such as "Dear Dr. Rocca" and end with a closing such as "Sincerely, I. Newton."

Exam Makeup Policy: To qualify for a makeup exam you must have a valid reason for missing the exam and, if at all possible, let me know ahead of time that you are missing the exam. You will need to meet with me in order to arrange a time for the make up exam. If you do not have a valid reason, do not give prior notice when possible, or simply do not show up for an exam, you are not entitled to a makeup and will not be given one. If you fail to show up for your makeup exam, you will not be given a second opportunity.

The 2% Exception: Any quiz or class work which is ultimately worth no more then 2% of your final grade can not be made up.

Time on Task: As a 0.5 credit class you should expect to average 2 to 2.5 hours of work a week including class time. Some weeks you may get away with less and some may require more.

Attendance: There is no specific policy for attendance in this course. However, if you have *three consecutive unexcused absences* within the first half of the semester I am required to report to the University that you have *stopped attending*.

Academic Honesty: If on any assignment, quiz, or exam you turn in someone else's work, regardless of the source, as if it were your own you will receive a zero on that assignment, quiz, or exam. If you are caught doing this three times you will receive an F in the course and the Dean will be informed of your academic dishonesty.
(https://www.wcsu.edu/faculty-handbook/2019-2020/policies-pertaining-to-students/academic-honesty-policy/)

Accommodations: If you have need of an accommodation for testing or note taking, please visit AccessAbility Services, located in White Hall 005 (http://www.wcsu.edu/accessability).

Resource	Location	Hours	Phone Number	Name & Signature
Writing Center				
Tutoring Center				
Math Clinic				
Library Reference Desk				
Student Affairs				
Advisement Center				
Your Advisor				
Registrar				

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Office Hour Signature Sheet

You need to collect signatures from all of your instructors and you advisor in their office hours.

Course Title	Meeting Time	Instructor	Office Hours	Signature*

*Instructors please only sign off on this schedule during your scheduled office hours.

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Schedule Tracking Sheet I: 9/15 - 9/21, Due 9/22

	Friday 9/15	Saturday 9/16	Sunday 9/17	Monday 9/18	Tuesday 9/19	Wednesday 9/20	Thursday 9/21
9 am							
10 am							
11 am							
12 pm							
1 pm							
2 pm							
3 pm							
4 pm							
5 pm							
6 pm							
7 pm							
8 pm							
9 pm							

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Schedule Tracking Sheet II: 9/29 - 10/5, Due 10/6

	Friday 9/29	Saturday 9/30	Sunday 10/1	Monday 10/2	Tuesday 10/3	Wednesday 10/4	Thursday 10/5
9 am							
10 am							
11 am							
12 pm							
1 pm							
2 pm							
3 pm							
4 pm							
5 pm							
6 pm							
7 pm							
8 pm							
9 pm							