MAD 4203: Introduction to Combinatorics 1   Fall 2024

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00–11:30, or by appointment.

Meeting Times

MWF 11:45–12:35 in Little 219

Textbook

A Walk Through Combinatorics (Fourth Edition) by Miklós Bóna
I don't recommend the Kindle version, which may render some symbols incorrectly.

Syllabus

This course is an introduction to combinatorics. The topics we will cover (the pigeonhole principle, enumeration, partitions, the inclusion/exclusion principle, generating functions, and graph theory) are covered in the first ten chapters of the textbook.

Homework

I will assign homework problems each week to be collected and graded. Solutions to these problems will be distributed after the homework has been collected. Late homework will not be accepted. I will also assign some homework problems which will not be collected or graded. You should certainly do these problems as well, since exam questions may be based on them.

Exams

Friday, September 13 (in class)
Friday, October 11 (in class)
Friday, November 8 (in class)
Wednesday, December 11, 10:00–noon (final)

Grading

The homework will count 25%, each in-class exam will count 15%, and the final will count 30%. Your class average x will be converted into a letter grade as follows:

$$90 \leq x \leq 100 : \text{A} \qquad 85 \leq x < 90 : \text{A}- \qquad 80 \leq x < 85 : \text{B}+$$
$$75 \leq x < 80 : \text{B} \qquad 70 \leq x < 75 : \text{B}- \qquad 65 \leq x < 70 : \text{C}+$$
$$60 \leq x < 65 : \text{C} \qquad 55 \leq x < 60 : \text{C}- \qquad 50 \leq x < 55 : \text{D}+$$
$$45 \leq x < 50 : \text{D} \qquad 40 \leq x < 45 : \text{D}- \qquad 0 \leq x < 40 : \text{E}$$