

## Mathematics: A Practical Experience

This course focuses on elementary mathematical modeling of real world situations through the use of discrete dynamical systems. The spreadsheet software Excel is used throughout the course to analyze, both numerically and graphically, the behavior of discrete dynamical systems.

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**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday 9:30-10:20 a.m. In addition to my scheduled office hour, you may stop by at any time. You may also make an appointment to meet with me. You are responsible for all course material. If you do not understand a concept or problem please don't hesitate to ask a classmate, a tutor, or me

**Text:** *Elementary Mathematical Modeling* by James Sandefur. Students are expected to read and study the sections of the book that we cover. The student solution manual is also recommended and available at the bookstore.

**Calculator:** A scientific calculator is required for the course. Cell phones are not allowed.

**Excel:** The spreadsheet software Excel is used extensively throughout the course. It is available in our classroom and in computer labs on campus. Microsoft Office, which includes Excel, is available at the bookstore for a very good price. I require that you email me requested Excel files using your WVCC student email account. This prevents your message from landing in my junk mail, helps me identify the sender, and offers more confidentiality. I strongly suggest that you use a USB flash drive to store and transport files. Although we will be using the computers for Math 107, other computer activities are prohibited during class.

**Attendance:** Daily, punctual attendance is expected. If you should miss a class, you are responsible for all announcements made concerning the course, for the material discussed in class, and for the homework assigned. The assignments will be posted on my website. Cell phone use (this includes text messaging) is not allowed during class. If you are using your phone during class, I will ask you to leave for the remaining portion of class.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned but will not be collected regularly. Quizzes will be directly based on homework problems and will be given frequently. It is extremely unlikely that you will be successful in the course if you choose not to complete the homework. Plan to spend a solid two hours every day reading, studying, and working through problems. I encourage you to work in groups and to obtain help from the Math Lab in Room 288, remembering that it is essential to understand the course material and to be able to solve the problems independently.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given throughout the quarter. The majority of the quizzes are taken individually in class. Some quizzes are given as group quizzes in class and some quizzes are given as take-home assignments. The quizzes are based on homework problems. Each quiz is worth 10 points. Your lowest two quiz scores will be dropped when computing your final grade. There will be 150 quiz points possible in your final grade. If you must miss a quiz for a school-related event, please contact me at least two days in advance in order to make proper arrangements to take the quiz. If you should miss a quiz for other reasons, the missed quiz will be one of your dropped quiz scores.

**Exams:** There will be three exams prior to the final, each worth 100 points. If you must miss an exam for a WWCC-related function, please contact me at least one week in advance in order to make proper arrangements. In the extremely rare case that you should miss an exam for other reasons, unless physically impossible, you must contact me before the exam in order to make arrangements to take the exam at another time. You are required to provide a scientific calculator for each exam. Please note that cell phones, headphones, computers, and sharing calculators are prohibited during exams.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be given Thursday, June 11 and will be worth 150 points. Taking the final exam on a day other than that scheduled must be arranged in writing through the Vice President of Instruction's office.

**Evaluation:** There are 600 points possible: 150 quiz points, 300 midterm exam points, and 150 final exam points. Your grade will be calculated by dividing the points you have earned by the points possible. Your grade will be determined from the following scale where  $x$  is the % of possible points you earned.

A	$x \geq 93$	B-	$80 \leq x < 83$	D+	$67 \leq x < 70$
A-	$90 \leq x < 93$	C+	$77 \leq x < 80$	D	$60 \leq x < 67$
B+	$87 \leq x < 90$	C	$73 \leq x < 77$	F	$x < 60$
B	$83 \leq x < 87$	C-	$70 \leq x < 73$		

If, at the end of the quarter, your percent earned is very close to a grade minimum, it is possible that your grade will be rounded up. This will be based on your exam scores, effort and improvement. For example, a 92.9% could be rounded up to an A. Your grade will not be rounded down.

**Notes:** Academic dishonesty (cheating) is not tolerated and will result in a 0 grade. A student with a documented disability may request accommodations by contacting Claudia Angus, Coordinator of Disability Support Services, by phone at 527-4262 or by email at [claudia.angus@wwcc.edu](mailto:claudia.angus@wwcc.edu). Do not hesitate to ask questions in class or in my office. It is essential that you consistently put forth the effort necessary to succeed, beginning today.