Math 210: Topics in Finite Mathematics
Lecture 4, MWF 1:20–2:10 p.m., B130 Van Vleck
Syllabus for Semester I, 2008/2009

Prof. Paul Terwilliger
Email: terwilli@math.wisc.edu
Office: 101a Van Vleck
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday (4:00–5:00) in B131, or after class in B130, or by apt.
WWW: http://www.math.wisc.edu/~terwilli

Office phone: 263-2226
Teaching assistants: Diego Galindo, 316 Van Vleck, dagalindo@wisc.edu, 263-3062
Li (Aug) Wang, 101-16 Van Vleck, wangli@math.wisc.edu, 263-1350


Course Content: We will cover roughly chapters 1–9 in the text. The main topics include
combinatorial counting, probability, linear programming, Markov chains, and financial math-
ematics. In addition, the students are expected to sharpen their algebraic and computational
skills.

Exams and Grades: The course grade will be based on four in-class exams and the final
eaxm. Each of the in-class exams is worth 100 points, and the final exam is worth 150 points.
The final exam is required; of the four in-class exams, the one with the lowest score will be
dropped. For each in-class exam there will be NO make-up; if you miss the exam, then
that exam is the one that will be dropped.

The final exam is FRIDAY, DEC 19, at 7:25 p.m.
There will be a make-up exam for the final, but it will take place after December 19. Under
no circumstances will a student be allowed to take the final early. So fair warning, and make
your travel plans for winter break NOW.

Homework: To learn the material well, you need to work out lots of homework problems.
In a typical lecture I will cover one section of the text. At the end of that section you will
find several dozen problems. For homework you should solve as many of these problems
as possible. Also at the end of each chapter you will find several dozen review problems.
For homework you should solve as many of these problems as possible. You may do the
homework alone, or form a study group with your classmates as you see fit. The homework
will not be handed in, but the solutions will be gone over in the discussion sections. For the
odd-numbered problems the answers are given in the back of the book. You will probably
agree that in principle, it is important to do the homework if you want to learn the material.
But given the many distractions in your life, you might find it hard to do this without extra
motivation. So here it is:

For each exam including the final, the test questions will be taken at random
and verbatim from the homework, with only the numbers changed.

Discussion Sections: As a student in this course you have been assigned a discussion
section. This will meet once a week and is run by your teaching assistant. In the discussion
section you have the opportunity to ask questions about examples from the lecture and the
homework problems. The TA will also have office hours each week for routine help with the
exercises etc. I have office hours for non-routine help.
Exam Policy: When you seat yourself for an exam, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are separated from each neighbor by at least two empty seats. The lecture hall is quite large so there will be plenty of room for this. During the exam no books, notes, calculators, cell phones, pagers, or any electronic devices will be allowed. You are required to bring a Photo ID to each exam, and you might be asked to show it.

Extra Help: In addition to the discussion sections and office hours, the following help is available:

Business Learning Center: free tutoring, review sessions, practice exams.
http://www.bus.wisc.edu/blc Contact Judy Cary jcary@wisc.edu

GUTS (Greater University Tutoring Service): free peer tutoring.
http://guts.studentorg.wisc.edu/index.html

Private Tutors: The receptionist on the 2nd floor of Van Vleck has a list of private tutors. See also http://www.math.wisc.edu/~paulson/tutor.html

Remarks: (1) The final exam is cumulative.
(2) I will create the exams. The exams are graded jointly by myself and the TA’s. The graded exams will be returned to the student in their discussion section.
(3) Any questions about the grading of an in-class exam must be brought to the instructor’s attention within two weeks of the day that exam is handed back in class.
(4) On the exams, cross out or erase material that you don’t want counted. Incorrect reasoning will be counted against you.
(5) On the exams, an appropriate amount of reasoning must be shown. Correct answers alone may earn little or no credit.
(6) The Kleene Math Library has a collection of old Math 210 exams that you might find useful as a study aid. These exams are on the WWW at http://math.library.wisc.edu/reserve

Tentative Schedule of Lectures:

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