

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA  
COURSE SYLLABUS & OUTLINE  
SPRING, 2012

FUNDAMENTALS OF COLLEGE MATH MATH 120 (3 Credit Hours)

Section 4001 Tuesday/Thursday 8:00 AM – 9:20 AM Henderson room C227

## IF YOU SKIP ANY CLASS, DON'T RETURN!

Even missing one class may be critical.

If you miss three classes in a row or a total of seven classes, you will flunk the course unless the instructor accepts a letter from a doctor, etc. as to your emergency. Absences will be determined from daily quizzes, etc. It is up to the student to make sure there are not too many absences.

**There will be no “sidebar” conversations or texting/cell use during the class.  
Turn off cell-phones. Treat Instructor and other students with respect.  
Students neglecting this may be removed from class.**

INSTRUCTOR: Garry Knight      OFFICE: Henderson, Room B146  
651-3094  
website:      e-mail: storyproblem@yahoo.com  
[www.csn.edu/uploadedfiles/Academics/Divisions/Science\\_and\\_Math/Math/Knight.htm](http://www.csn.edu/uploadedfiles/Academics/Divisions/Science_and_Math/Math/Knight.htm)

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 8:00-9:20 AM, 2:00-4:00 PM  
Tuesday 2:00-4:00 PM  
Wednesday 2:00-3:00 PM  
Thursday 11:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Also: by appointment (or just walk in)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Topics include probability, statistics, geometry and consumer Mathematics. It may include problem solving, sets, logic, mathematical systems, numeration and measurement. Course is broad in scope, emphasizing applications.

PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFERABILITY: Satisfactory completion of Math 96 or Math 97 or satisfactory SAT/ACT/CSN Mathematics Placement Test score. Course is transferable to all public colleges in Nevada and to other colleges based on their policies. Course is not a prerequisite for other Mathematics courses.

TEXTBOOK:

WHEN ARE WE EVER GOING TO USE THIS STUFF?

3rd edition: Matovina and Yates

Book may be purchased at the CSN bookstore or downloaded free from instructor's website.

In addition to the text, the instructor will use notes (available on his website) AND there may be lectures with no published notes which students will be expected to know.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- a. Determine the probability and odds of an event
- b. Determine the expected value of an event
- c. Read, create and understand tree diagrams
- d. Work with basic statistical operations
- e. Identify, interpret, and create various statistical graphs and plots
- f. Calculate perimeters and areas
- g. Work with congruent and similar triangles
- h. Solve problems involving simple and compound interest
- i. Perform basic calculations with installment buying and mortgages
- j. Apply and extend concepts

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at all classes is required. Students who find themselves in a position of having to miss numerous classes should withdraw and take the course when regular attendance is possible or take the course by distance education. If classes are missed, students are responsible for knowledge of material missed. CSN has a policy that, to the extent possible, students will be excused for religious holidays: please inform instructor ahead of time. Please see note at top of syllabus.

HONESTY:

The instructor assumes honesty on the part of all students. However, cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty are held as serious offenses. Instructors have the responsibility to report any such incident in writing to the administration. The student involved WILL flunk the course and could be expelled from the college.

TUTORS

If you find yourself having difficulty with the material and would like extra help, please utilize CSN's tutorial services. CSN provides free tutoring for all enrolled Math students. There is a free walk-in tutorial lab on all three CSN campuses that is staffed with tutors and Math instructors. In addition a student can sign up for one-on-one tutoring sessions, and each credit of instruction qualifies a student for up to 4 hours of free tutoring. Visit <http://www.csn.edu/pages/1903.asp> for more information.

RETENTION OFFICE:

If you are having TROUBLE with Math or WANT TO QUIT, you are urged to contact the Retention Office for HELP. Academic Coaches are available to help you. Contact Angel at 651-3103 or stop by the Retention Office in room B130 (in Henderson).

GRADING: The course will consist of 500 total points:

Grades will be as follow:		Grades will consist of:	
450 <sup>+</sup>	A	3 tests	125 points each
400-449	B	Group Project	30 points
350-399	C	Quizzes	75 points
300-349	D	Homework, Misc.	20 points
Below 300	F		

There will be no make-up on quizzes and generally no make-up exams. In the event a student MUST miss an exam, the instructor is to be informed immediately. ALL EXAMS MUST BE TAKEN TO PASS THE COURSE.

IF YOU QUIT ATTENDING AND DO NOT OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW, YOU WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF “F”. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY WITHDRAW STUDENTS.

STUDYING: some hints for studying/learning Mathematics are:

- Attend every class and pay attention.
- Practice is the key to success. Learning Math is an active process. You must work problems-the general rule of thumb is for students to spend 2 hours of time outside of class for every hour inside class. Utilize tutors, computer tutorials, and other study aids.
- Mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. Do not be frightened by them, but profit by them.
- Keep up with assignments. Moderate daily study is much more effective than intensive stretches before an examination. Do not cram for an exam.
- Ask questions.

Students are encouraged to work together on homework or take-home portion of tests, without copying. Students in this class are also encouraged to obtain assistance from tutors or the instructor, and to use available technology.

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 23.....	Classes begin
January 29.....	Final date to drop course
February 20.....	Presidents’ Day Holiday
March 19-25.....	Spring Recess
April 6.....	Final date to withdraw from class
May 21.....	Semester ends

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Instructors have the responsibility to set and maintain standards of classroom behavior appropriate to the discipline and method of instruction. Students may not engage in activity that the instructor deems disruptive or counterproductive to the goals of the class. Instructors have the right to remove offending students from class. Repetition of the offense may result in expulsion from the course. PLEASE TREAT ALL OTHER STUDENTS WITH RESPECT. AS A MATTER OF COMMON COURTESY TO OTHER STUDENTS AND THE INSTRUCTOR, PLEASE:

- a. Turn off beepers and cellular phones or place on vibrate. Leave room if necessary to answer phones. There will be NO cell-phone, headset or internet use or texting during this class.
- b. Do not disrupt class by talking to your neighbor. There are to be no “sidebar” conversations.**
- c. Be on time to class and attend all classes. Do not schedule appointments, etc. during scheduled class times.
- d. Don't just walk out of class: it is rude and disruptive. If you have a commitment which absolutely had to be made for a time during class, inform instructor at the beginning of the class.
- e. Don't waste class time asking instructor to re-do material you were absent for or did not complete homework for: use videos, computer tutorials, tutors, or instructor office hours.
- f. Pay attention. Participate fully in class activities.
- g. In the event that a student finds another student's words, actions or demeanor offensive, please inform instructor.

DRC: If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in Student Services on each campus. For Henderson the number is 651-3795, and the Cheyenne number is 651-4045. For those students who would like to earn a little extra cash, stop by the DRC to fill out a job interest card. The DRC office hires students as note takers, proctors, scribes and research assistants as needed.

SAFETY: Please note emergency exits. Please inform instructor of any environmental hazards. A copy of the Mathematics departmental safety plan is on file at the Mathematics Department office at the Cheyenne campus.

NOTES: Scientific or basic calculators (not graphing or cell-phones) will be useful at times, and may be used unless otherwise noted. Students are to read assigned sections of text in preparation for lecture. Homework/quiz/test formats, timeliness, and points are completely at the option of the instructor. Daily quizzes/homework may be discarded if not received the day they are returned to students. Corrections to test grades, if any, must be made within three weeks of tests being returned.

## COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Math 120 Spring, 2012

### Group Project and Presentation

Groups will consist of 3-5 students. A presentation to the class of about 10 minutes will be given over a Mathematics topic. It is to have something to do with problem-solving or explaining an area of Math: i.e. not the history of Math or the life of a Mathematician. The instructor will be somewhat flexible on the time, but the group must arrange for extra time.

Groups will not be assigned, so students must form their own groups. The presentations must be scheduled well ahead of time with the instructor. Members of the group and the class will be asked to privately rate all members of the group as to participation, etc. The instructor will assign a grade based partly on the presentation and partly on the individual's part in it. All members of the group must participate in the presentation in order to get credit.

Some possible topics might be: Chaos Theory, Groups or Rings in Linear Algebra, how a magician makes a Math problem look like magic, how does a number problem work when one chooses a number and then does certain things to it to end up with a certain number, expected return from a game of Keno, a financial plan for someone wanting to retire in 20 years, some number theory, Statistics on a particular topic, etc. Topics must be cleared with the instructor, in writing (best to use email). All presentations must be completed by lesson 26.

MATH 120 FUNDAMENTALS OF COLLEGE MATH  
SPRING, 2012  
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE\*

CLASS

T/R

CHAPTER 1: CRITICAL THINKING

1 1/24

2 1/26

3 1/31

4 2/2

CHAPTER 2: SETS AND VENN DIAGRAMS

5 2/7

6 2/9

7 2/14

EXTRA: LOGIC

8 2/16

9 2/21

10 2/23

11 2/28

CHAPTER 3: STATISTICS

12 3/1

**13 3/6 TEST ONE**

14 3/8

15 3/13

CHAPTER 4: PROBABILITY

16	3/15
17	3/27
18	3/29
19	4/3
20	4/5

CHAPTER 5: GEOMETRY

21	4/10	
<b>22</b>	<b>4/12</b>	<b><u>TEST TWO</u></b>

EXTRA MATERIAL: LOGARITHMS

23	4/17
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CHAPTER 6: CONSUMER MATH AND FINANCE

24	4/19	
25	4/24	
26	4/26	ALL GROUP PROJECTS DUE
27	5/1	
28	5/3	
29	5/8	
30	5/10	
<b>31</b>	<b>5/15</b>	<b><u>TEST THREE</u></b>

\* The instructor reserves the right to modify the above schedule as necessary. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any changes made. The instructor also reserves the right to change the schedule in any manner at any time. Students should do EVERY problem assigned.