

Math 1020Q Sections 005 & 011 – Problem Solving

Section 005 - 1:25pm - 2:15pm in MSB219.
Section 011 - 12:20pm - 1:10pm in BRON124.

Teaching Assistant:	Noah Hughes
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Webpage:	http://www.math.uconn.edu/~hughes/math1020f15
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm, MSB118
Course Coordinator	Mark Naigles

Bulletin Description: An introduction to the techniques used by mathematicians to solve problems. Skills such as Externalization (pictures and charts), Visualization (associated mental images), Simplification, Trial and Error, and Lateral Thinking learned through the study of mathematical problems. Problems drawn from combinatorics, probability, optimization, cryptology, graph theory, and fractals. Students will be encouraged to work cooperatively and to think independently.

General Education Goals and Objectives: Foster problem solving skills applicable throughout college and everyday life.

Required Resources: PProblem SSSolving, 3rd edition, by DeFranco, Vinsonhaler & Naigles

Content: All of PProblem SSSolving will be discussed. The vast majority of problems will come from or be inspired by the text. Select problems will be given from outside sources at my discretion.

Grading: Course grades will be based on the following:

- Homework **50%**
- Projects 12.5%
- Exam 1 (TENTATIVE: September 30)..... 12.5%
- Exam 2 (TENTATIVE: November 11)..... 12.5%
- Final Exam (TBA: Week of December 14)..... 12.5%

An observation: Note that the homework portion of your final grade accounts for a whopping 1/2. Each other portion (including the final exam) is worth 1/8. With this in mind, consider that the best and most efficient way to fail my course is to not do your homework.

Assignments: Homework will be assigned, collected and returned on a weekly basis. Apt notice for assignments and collection dates will be given in class and reiterated on the [course webpage](#).

Course Policies: All students are expected to abide by the University's [Community Standards](#) at all times. Ignorance of these policies cannot be used as a request for accommodation.

Make-Up Work: Unexcused absence during exams will be tolerated only in highly unusual documented circumstances (e.g., hospitalization). Notice is given ahead of time for tests so you may arrange with me well in advance if accommodations are needed. Similarly, late homework will be rarely tolerated; you may ask for an extension but the answer will most likely be “no.” You may always turn your work in early.

Technology: I ask that you respect the learning environment and please silence all cellular telephones and media devices prior to class.

Where to Get Help:

- My office hours are set aside especially for you. If I need to cancel any of these, I will do my best to let you know a day in advance; if you cannot come during those times, please make an appointment.
- The Quantitative Learning Center (Q-center) offers free drop-in peer tutoring Sundays to Fridays on the first floor of the Homer Babbage Library for quantitative literacy courses (those marked with a Q).

Disability Support Services: If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the [Center for Students with Disabilities](#). They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this document in partiality or entirety at any point during the semester.