

Math 215—Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I—Fall 2009

Class Meetings: TR 2:30 – 4:30
Instructor: Dr. Pamela K. M. Smith **Office:** EBH 268
Phone: 247-7403 **E-Mail:** smith_p@fortlewis.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30 – 1:30
Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00
Thursday 12:30 – 1:30
Friday 11:00 – 12:00

You are welcome to stop by my office at other times as well, but I may or may not be able to help you then. You may also call or e-mail me with questions.

TEXT

There is no required text for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a *content* course (as opposed to a *methods* course). In this course, you will learn (or re-learn) basic number theory (e.g., factors and multiples; even, odd, prime, composite, and square numbers; divisibility tests); problem-solving techniques; place value and operations; fractions (different meanings and representations, e.g., fractions as parts of wholes, as portions of discrete sets, as division, as points on a number line). The hope is that you will develop a conceptual understanding of these topics, not just a procedural understanding. Reasoning, justification, participation and communication will be critical components of your work in this course. You will often be asked to show (verbally or through written work) not just the answer you got but *how* you got that answer and *why* it makes *sense* to you.

TESTS

During the term, three one-hour tests will be given. These tests are announced well in advance and should not be missed. If you must be absent for a test, you must contact the instructor *beforehand* to see *if* the test can be made up. No test grades will be dropped. Tentative test dates: 9/24, 10/22, and 11/19.

Details about the final exam will be given at a later date.

QUIZZES

Unannounced quizzes will be given from time to time. These quizzes cannot be made up.* However, there will probably be extra quiz grades, so students can drop one of them.

HOMEWORK

Frequent assignments will be given. It is expected that you keep up with homework assignments, as quiz material will often be based on homework problems. Late homework will not be accepted for any reason.* Homework assignments must be neat and clear. Points will be deducted for messy or unclear work and for improper use of equals signs. There will be extra homework assignments, so students may drop one homework grade.

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

In-class assignments will be given and completed during selected class meetings. In-class assignments cannot be made up*, although if there are extra in-class assignments, students may be able to drop one in-class grade.

COURSE WEBSITE

You are expected to regularly check the website for this course (go to the faculty webpages from the FLC homepage), especially if you miss class. Assignments and announcements will be posted whenever possible.

GRADING POLICY

Everyone is expected to complete all course requirements. The effort, detail, and thoughtfulness you put into your work should reflect the standards of performance you will be expected to meet as a teacher:

- meticulous preparation,
- use and application of mathematical knowledge,
- careful consideration of alternatives,
- genuine curiosity about ideas (including those of others),
- collegial work,
- analysis and reflectiveness,
- clear expression, with respect for the place and value of precision;
- organization,
- timeliness.

Your grade will be determined using these weights:

Hour exams:	45%
Final Exam:	15%
Homeworks:	15%
Quizzes:	15%
In-class assignments	5%
Attendance and Participation:	5%

You should keep all of the tests, quizzes, etc. which were returned to you until your final grade is determined.

RECYCLING

Please be sure to recycle mixed paper and any glass, cans, and plastic beverage containers. Recycling receptacles can be found at many convenient locations on campus. When we leave a classroom, I expect it to be at least as neat and clean as it was when we arrived. For more information on recycling at FLC, see <http://recycle.fortlewis.edu/RecyclePages/Recycle.htm>

USE OF TOBACCO

Use of any kind of tobacco is not permitted in the classroom. Smoking is not permitted inside any buildings on campus. Also, it is a campus-wide policy that smoking is not permitted within 50 feet of any opening doors and windows. Please respect this policy.

MATH DEPARTMENT CLASS POLICIES

You are expected to be aware of and to adhere to the Math Department Class Policies and the Math Department Expectations for Students, both of which can be found on the Mathematics Department website and the website for this course.

* Exceptions will be made for students missing class because of college-sponsored activities.