

## MATH 121A, WINTER 2011

*The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics.*

*-Paul Halmos (1916-2006)*

**Course:** Math 121A. Foundations of Teaching and Learning Mathematics I, TuTh 2:00 PM in AP&M B412. You should also be enrolled in the discussion section which meets on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM in AP&M B412.

**Professor:** Laura J. Stevens, AP&M 5832, 534-5864, [stevens@math.ucsd.edu](mailto:stevens@math.ucsd.edu), <http://www.math.ucsd.edu/~stevens>. My office hours will be Tuesdays 5:30-6:50 PM and Fridays 12:30-1:50 PM, and by appointment.

**Goal:** To help you become an effective teacher by advancing your knowledge of mathematical content and pedagogy.

**Textbook:** No text is required.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required, and attendance and participation count for 10% of your final course grade. Attendance at discussion sections is also mandatory.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned each week and due by 7:00 PM on the indicated due date. Assignments will be posted on the course website. You may turn in homework in lecture or using the homework dropbox on the floor of AP&M. No late homework will be accepted, but I will drop your lowest homework score to account for the possibility that you may miss one homework in the case of an emergency. Homework is worth 20% of your final course grade.

You are welcome to collaborate with your classmates on homework assignments, as group work can be quite beneficial, but please do so within limits. Please begin by attempting the problems on your own. If you find yourself stuck or would like constructive criticism, feel free to share your ideas with your classmates, myself, or your TA, but your final write-ups of your solutions should be done independently.

**Exams:** There will be a two midterm exams (each 20% of your grade), and a final exam (30% of your grade). The dates of the midterms are Thursday, January 27 and Thursday, February 24. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, March 17 at 3:00 PM. There will be no makeup exams.

**Helpful Advice:** Think about mathematics every day.