

## Course Policies

Prof. Shahed Sharif

**Textbook.** There is no textbook for this class.

**Course description.** Introduces mathematics students to the major, to the department and to the university. Covers basic skills, concepts, and knowledge necessary to thrive in the Mathematics Department and become a lifelong learner of mathematics. Includes in-depth exploration of resources available to undergraduates at CSU San Marcos.

**Course objectives.**

- Display mathematical thinking
- Understand the various disciplines within mathematics and their applications
- Develop a personal academic plan using Degree Planner that includes university requirements, general education courses and mathematics courses
- Learn how to take advantage of university resources
- Research various career options in mathematics and plan an appropriate academic career

**Course requirements.** The grading scheme is as follows:

70% for in-class work  
30% for final presentation

**In-class work** is assigned just about every day. It is graded out of 10, with one of 4 possible scores:

0 for absence from class  
7 for minimal effort  
10 for substantive effort  
11 for unique contribution above and beyond

If you miss a day, you can make it up in one of the following ways:

- visit a professor's office hours and report back about it
- attend a public math talk, such as the SMIMIC, and report back

**Final presentation** is a 15 minute presentation to the class conducted during the last four weeks of class. The topic is one of the following:

- a student resource or opportunity

- a recent mathematical result

By *October 23rd*, you should turn in a list of three potential topics. By *October 30th*, you should let me know your final choice.

The **final exam** is nonexistent.

**Office hours.** My office hours are Tuesday 4–5:20 PM, starting the second week of class. Drop by the math conference room at that time—you don’t need an appointment, or even any questions! If you have a conflict, send me an email and we’ll work out an alternate time. You can also email me any questions that you have. Make sure you include as much relevant detail as possible—pictures are fine.

**Ethics.** You are encouraged to work with others on in-class assignments. For the presentation, the work must be your own. Failure to follow these guidelines is considered plagiarism, and all involved parties will *at a minimum* earn a zero on the relevant assignment and have their actions reported to the Dean of Student Affairs.

Use of generative AI like ChatGPT is also considered cheating.

**ADA policy.** Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) in Administrative Hall 4300 (ph: (760) 750-4905; TTY: (760) 750-4909). Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with me during my office hours in order to ensure confidentiality.