Course Policies
Prof. Shahed Sharif

Textbook. We will be using *Introductory Combinatorics*, 5th ed., by Richard Brualdi.

Course description. This course is an introduction to the basic tools of combinatorics and their applications. The course will include study of some of the following topics: permutations, combinations, occupancy problems, generating functions, recurrences, inclusion/exclusion, graph theory, the pigeonhole principle, and coding theory.

Course objectives. Combinatorics is the mathematics of counting. For example, given a destination which is 3 blocks north and 3 blocks east of your present one, how many paths are there consisting of walking only north or east (sans circumnavigation)? In this course, you will learn various techniques for counting various quantities.

The material in this course heavily relies on set theory, so make sure you know your Math 350 material.

Course requirements. The grading scheme is as follows:

- 10% for homework
- 50% for two exams
- 40% for the final exam

Homework is announced every Tuesday and is due in class the following Tuesday. If you missed the announcement, check my webpage or email me.

On the front page of your homework, put your name and the assignment. If you turn in more than one sheet, you must staple your homework. You must also show all work to receive full credit.

Many of the problems are proofs and explanations. These must be written legibly and in complete sentences. You will be graded on your writing! Correct and clear grammar is essential to a correct proof. Of course, your reasoning must also be completely clear for full credit. Rewriting homework before handing it in is highly advisable. You may type your problem sets, but if you do, please use \LaTeX. Homework fulfills this course’s writing requirement.

After homework is handed in, I will be happy to go over complete solutions in office hours. Feel free to also e-mail me questions.

The exams are tentatively scheduled for February 20 and April 14. Exams are not cumulative.

The final exam is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 6:15–8:15 PM. If it would help, the final exam score will replace your lowest midterm exam score.

Late assignment policy. Late homework is not accepted. There are no exceptions! Instead, the lowest two homework scores are dropped. Make-up exams are not given. The replacement policy for exams will be used instead.
Office hours. My office hours are **Monday, 9:30–11:30** and **Tuesday, 10–11**. Drop by the math conference room, Craven Hall 6242, during those times—you don’t need an appointment! 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 homework assignments, but the final product should be your own work. Thus, you may solve every homework problem with a group of other students, but you must write up your solutions without consulting others or their work.

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 Craven Hall 5205 (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.