

**Math 131: Discrete Mathematics****2015***Discrete Mathematics*, Epp, Chapters 1-6Dr. Roland Minton, Trexler 270-C, 375-2358,  
[minton@roanoke.edu](mailto:minton@roanoke.edu)**office hours** 4M, 3T, 10W, 11Th

**Course Objectives:** *Continue to learn mathematics!* Discrete mathematics is an introduction to proofs. Proofs, in turn, reflect the critical thinking skills, precision and rigor that characterize mathematics and programming. Logical deduction is critical in any number of disciplines: a Roanoke grad who finished second in his class at Duke Law School credits discrete mathematics as the most important undergraduate course he took. The main objectives of this course are to improve your thinking skills to enhance your success in whatever your profession becomes, and to enjoy the problem-solving process.

**Intended Learning Outcomes:** At the end of the course, successful students will be able to

- Describe and apply each of several methods of mathematical proof
- Analyze a logical argument, and identify and correct any logical fallacies
- State and prove fundamental facts in number theory and graph theory
- Apply recursive relations to construct and prove facts about sequences

**Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is expected. You must keep up with definitions! You are responsible for everything done in class. If you miss a class, e-mail or call me before class is over and explain why. **If you have two unexplained absences, you may be dropped from the course after a warning email is sent.**

**I expect you to spend at least 12 hours of work each week inside and outside of class.**

**Academic Integrity:** The college policy is fully supported. Tests are closed notes, closed book. Homework assignments will be discussed in class, and you may always ask me for help. **Do not** collaborate on homework. No electronic devices are allowed in a test situation.

**Study problems and homework:** Problems from each section of the book will be assigned. You will be asked to work several problems that are not to be turned in. These will indicate the types of problems you will see on tests. In addition, you will be asked to turn in designated problems that go beyond the basic problems in the book. You will be given several days to work on these, which will be graded on the quality of the writing as well as the mathematics.

**Co-Curricular:** During the course of the semester, you must attend at least two approved co-curricular events offered by the math department. There are usually seven or eight events in a semester, so do not procrastinate! For each, write a report with (1) a brief summary and (2) a discussion of something that interested you. Due within a week of the event.

**Tests:** There will be six tests and a final exam. Each test will cover all material discussed since the previous test. Anticipated test dates are every other Friday: 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 11/6, 11/20, (W) 12/9. **The exam is Friday, December 18, 2:00-5:00.**

**Make-ups:** In case of sickness or scheduling conflicts, get in touch with me ASAP.

**Grading:** Homework and co-curricular count 20%. The final counts 20%. Each test counts 10% (60% total) of the final average. Grades may be curved up based on participation, one unusually low test score or other extenuating circumstance.

A: 93-100 A-: 90-92 B+: 87-89 B : 83-86 B-: 80-82 C+: 77-79 C: 73-76 C-: 70-72  
D+: 67-69 D: 63-67 D-: 60-62 F: 59 and below

**The Writing Center at Roanoke College:** located on the Lower Level of Fintel Library, offers writing tutorials focused on written and oral communication for students working on writing assignments/projects in any field. Writers at all levels of competence may visit the Writing Center at any point in their process, from brainstorming to drafting to editing, to talk with trained peer tutors in informal, one-on-one sessions. The Writing Center is open Sunday through Thursday from 4 to 9 pm. Simply stop in, or schedule an appointment by going to [www.roanoke.edu/writingcenter](http://www.roanoke.edu/writingcenter), where our schedule of writing workshops and creative writing playshops is also posted. Questions? Email [writingcenter@roanoke.edu](mailto:writingcenter@roanoke.edu) or call 375-4949. Like our Facebook page for updates!

**Special Needs:** located in the Goode-Pasfield Center for Learning and Teaching in Fintel Library, provides reasonable accommodations to students with identified disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are provided based on the diagnosed disability and the recommendations of the professional evaluator. In order to be considered for disability services, students must identify themselves to the Office of Disability Support Services. Students requesting accommodations are required to provide specific current documentation of their disabilities. Please contact Rick Robers, M.A., Coordinator of Disability Support Services, at 540-375-2247 or e-mail [robers@roanoke.edu](mailto:robers@roanoke.edu). If you are on record with the College's Office of Disability Support Services as having academic or physical needs requiring accommodations, please schedule an appointment with Mr. Robers as soon as possible. You need to discuss your accommodations with him before they can be implemented. Also, please note that arrangements for extended time on exams, testing, and quizzes in a distraction-reduced environment must be made at least one week *before every exam*.

## **Math 131 Information Sheet**

Name:

Intended Major:

Hometown:

List any other college math courses you have taken.

What are your expectations and goals for this course?

What campus activities do you expect to be involved in this semester?

## Model Reflection Paper

(This is made up, but shows what I'd like to get from you. The two main elements are (1) brief summary of talk and (2) some original thought on the subject.)

The talk on September 7<sup>th</sup> was by Dr. Sue Dokoo of Pseudo Duke University. Her research is in the game of Sudoku and discussed different aspects of this game. I have seen other people playing it, but did not know the rules or any of the mathematics behind it.

In this game, a 9x9 playing space is provided. An example given was:

		6	2			5	8	
4		2	5					7
				7	8	6		3
5		1		6	7			8
	3						6	
6			8	2		9		1
7		4	3	9				
9					5	2		6
	5	3			1	4		

To “solve” the puzzle, one could just enter numbers in a brute-force kind of way to see if they could get a working configuration. However, sitting in a room full of mathematicians, taking a more analytical approach seemed to be the dominant strategy. Treating this as a constraint-satisfaction problem, you can identify that certain cells must contain specific values. This leads to the conclusion that there is exactly one solution to a “well-formed” Sudoku.

This got me thinking about well-formed Sudoku, and how they are generated in the first place. It seems unlikely that the seeds are randomly assigned, you run the risk of violating set-up rules. A bigger problem is that the seeds may not constrain the possibilities enough to make a unique solution. Another naïve approach might be to take a completed grid and start taking away numbers, but I suspect that you might have a similar issue in terms of necessary constraints.

One that I want to think about is: In forming a viable Sudoku, is it the number of seeds or the placement of seeds that is more critical? I suspect the latter. Also,

- What is the maximum number of seed numbers that can be provided and still result in an ambiguous (unsolvable) puzzle?
- What is the minimum number of seed numbers that can be provided to generate a (uniquely) solvable puzzle?

We were provided two puzzles – one was rated “Easy” the other “Difficult”.

- What goes into the rating system?
- Does a difficult puzzle necessarily have fewer seed numbers?
- Is the rating of the complexity somehow determined by the deductive skills required?

Date	Topic	Section	Study
9/2	Introduction		
9/4	Language of Sets	1.2,1.3	p13 #1,3,4,7,8,11; p21 #1,5,9,11,12
9/7	Logical Form	2.1	p36 #5,6,8,11,13,14,17,21,23,26,28,40
9/9	Conditionals	2.2	p48 # 5,7,16,17,20,24,28,40-43
9/11	Arguments	2.3	p60 #1,2,6,8,25-29,36
	<b>HW #1 DUE</b>		
9/14	Quantified	3.1	p73 #5,7,9,10,13,16,23,25,28
9/16	Quantified II	3.2	p83 #2-4,7,9,10,13,20-23,34,38,39
9/18	<b>TEST #1</b>		1.2-3.1
9/21	Multiple Qs	3.3	p93 #9,11,12,15,16,29,31,35,36,41
9/23	Arguments	3.4	p106 #8-11,15-17,19-23,31,33
9/25	Direct Proof	4.1	p125 #5,6,11-12,14,21-23
	<b>HW #2 DUE</b>		

Date	Topic	Section	Study
9/28	Direct Proof	4.1	p126 #27-32,43-46,50,52,57-60
9/30	Graph Theory	10.1	p490 #2,3,5,8,16-22,27,37,47
10/2	<b>TEST #2</b>		3.2-4.1
10/5	Rationals	4.2	p132 #14-20,28,30,35-38
10/7	Divisibility	4.3	p142 #9,10,13,15,24-30,33,36
10/9	Quotient-Remainder	4.4	p153 #7,8,13,17,19,20,23,24,28,30,36-38
	<b>HW #3 DUE</b>		
10/12	Contradiction	4.5	p162 #7-13,19-21,28-30
10/14	Euler Circuits	10.2	p508, #4-6,9,11-20,22-26
10/16	<b>TEST #3</b>		10.1,4.2-4.5
	<b>FALL BREAK</b>		

Date	Topic	Section	Study
10/26		4.6	p169 #7-12,19,23
10/28		5.1	p184 #8-11,19-23,32,36,38-40,48-51, 57-58,60-62,67-68
10/30		5.2	p197 #6-7,10-14,33-35
	<b>HW #4 DUE</b>		
11/2		5.3	p207 #3-4,13-17,24-26,36
11/4		5.4	p219 #3-8,10,18-19,25
11/6	<b>TEST #4</b>		10.2,4.6-5.3
11/9		10.3	p522 #3,8-16,22-25
11/11		5.5	p234 #1-4,9-11,25-33,36-37
11/13		5.6	p247 #5-10,18-19,25-26,45-48
	<b>HW #5 DUE</b>		

Date	Topic	Section	Study
11/16		6.1	p262 #6-10,13,17-20,24,27-28,31,34
11/18		6.2	p277 #7-12,15-21,36
11/20	<b>TEST #5</b>		5.4-6.1, 10.3
11/23		6.3	p284 #7-12,17-18,30-34,44
	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>		
11/30		6.4	p292 #4-10,13-14
12/2		7.4	p343 #1-5,9-13,25,29-30,32
12/4		9.4	p444 #1-4,7,10,20-22,25-27,33
	<b>HW #6 DUE</b>		
12/7		8.4	p386 #9-10,12,14,20-21
12/9	<b>TEST #6</b>		6.2-6.4,7.4,8.4,9.4
12/11	Review for Exam		
<b>12/18</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		

