

## **MTH 98-Foundations for Contemporary Math**

**Fall 2021-CRN: 27549**

### *Instructor Information*

Instructor: Mary Campbell

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Instructional Aide: Misa Hargraves

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**Class Meetings:** Our class meets Monday and Wednesdays from 2:30-4:20 and Fridays from 2:30 to 3:20. Our classroom is located in Zoom at: <https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/95424896019>

**Office Hours with Mary:** These are times when you can drop in with questions or just to chat. No appointment needed! Times are Tuesdays at 10:30 and Thursday at 4:30. Office hours are located in Zoom at: <https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/684149306> If those times do not work for you, contact me to arrange another time, it's not a problem. Also, I will have in-person office hours at the LBCC Benton Center, in BC234 Fridays at 9:30.

**Meet with Classmates:** Discord is a chatroom type environment, available 24/7, where you can meet with classmates to collaborate (and socialize) at: <https://discord.gg/geMqSqV>

**Drop in Remote Math Help:** Open from 9am - 8pm Monday through Friday, and 11am - 4pm Saturday (closed Sunday); available at: <https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/94627678411>

**Face to Face Math Help:** Will be available in Albany this term! Monday-Friday from 9 to noon and 2 to 5 pm, also Saturday from 11 to 4.

**Course Description and Objectives:** Math 98 is designed to prepare students for success in Math 105. Students whose degree or program requires Math 75, Math 95 or Math 111 should not take Math 98. Throughout this course you will develop critical thinking skills, gain number sense, build estimation skills and solve realistic problems. By focusing on relevance and context, you will learn to think algebraically, will understand basic statistics and will use data and functions in mathematical modelling. Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of numerical skills in a variety of contexts based on the course objectives;

- Interpret and communicate statistical and mathematical concepts using a variety of graphical and computational methods;
- Apply algebraic skills and reasoning to solve problems based on the course objectives;
- Identify properties of a function and create mathematical models.

*Materials Needed:*

- A device, with a webcam, to access the Internet. This can be a tablet, laptop or phone (not the best choice, but whatever works). LBCC may have laptops to check out if you do not have one.
- Materials will be available via Moodle (LBCCs Learning Management System)
- Access to the Internet.
- You do NOT need to purchase a packet this term.
- A calculator; you can use the one on your device if you don't have one.
- Other: A good attitude! This class was not originally planned for a virtual environment but we are making it work. You can expect some references in our worksheets to still refer to an in-person class environment.

*What does a typical week include?*

During class, we will switch **learning modes** – sometimes you'll work with your group, sometimes I'll ask for a class discussion, and sometimes I will write notes and examples on the white board. I will tell you when we are switching learning modes.

If your group doesn't finish an assignment, that is part of your **homework**. You should finish it by the next class. It will be checked as part of your notebook.

Twice a week, by midnight, an **online homework assignment** is due.

And once a week, your **reflections** from the previous week will be due.

The **calendar** in **Moodle** is the best way to keep track of these assignments.

*What will I be graded on and how often?*

- Activity Notebooks: 20%, assignments submitted throughout the term
- Online Homework: 20%, submitted twice a week
- Online Reflections: 10%, submitted once a week
- Big Idea Projects: 15%, submitted three times during the term
- Tests: 35%, submitted three times during the term

- Letter grades will be based on your weighted average of the above.

### *Some grading details*

Activity Notebooks: Most Activity assignments will be completed in class and then submitted in Moodle. You will have time to complete and correct activities after class before they are due. Activities are graded on whether they are: organized, completed and corrected

Online Homework: Twice a week, you will have homework problems due. You will get multiple tries on problems, and you can ask for help. This gives you a chance to immediately reflect on your learning and understanding.

Online Reflections: Research indicates that one of the best things you can do to increase your learning is to write about it. Reflective Writing entries are graded using the following criteria:

- Completeness (all the questions for a particular entry are addressed);
- The level of insight and reflection (evidence that your response is thoughtful and you took time on it);
- That support is provided for the observations and conclusions you make; and
- The extent to which relevant course content (from class and elsewhere) is integrated into the entries.

Big Idea Projects and Summaries: Each assignment will have a description and a grading rubric. This helps you identify your goal for the grade you want to earn.

Tests: Tests will be in class, on Zoom and using Moodle. You may use one page of notes. The test will be similar to the homework experience, but without the “helps” and multiple attempts.

### *Attendance policy*

**If you miss five hours of class (1/10 of the class) you will get a warning. If you miss ten hours of class (20% of the class) your final course grade will drop one letter grade.** Essentially, there are five letter grades, and if you miss 1/5th of the class, you will not be eligible for the top letter grade.

### *This feels different from other math classes...*

*This course is taught through group work using group activities. This is likely different than any other class you've taken, and you may not know what behaviors are most effective and*

*appropriate. Read the list below carefully and revisit it often during the term. Practice the Effective and Appropriate Behaviors to get the most out of this class.*

***Effective and Appropriate Behaviors:***

- Trying problems on your own before discussing them with your group.
- Giving everyone a chance to try and discuss a problem
- Checking your work through multiple approaches – usually a group will come up with more than one way to do a problem; this helps you check your work and feel confident.
- Do your homework all the way through without checking the answer key AND attempt every problem, even if all you do is write down what you know about the problem. See inappropriate behaviors for the reason why.
- When you do corrections, make sure you figure out where you went wrong with your solution – writing the correct answer will not help you learn, but finding your mistakes and correcting them will. Make your corrections using a different color font so you can refer back to them. See inappropriate behaviors for more information.

***Ineffective and Inappropriate Behaviors:***

- Asking a group member to tell you how to do a problem – Instead ask “what is this question asking for?”, “can you tell me the meaning of this word?”, “What does this question relate to that we’ve already done?”
- Copying work from a group member or answer key – it might be tempting if you miss a class or get behind, but this is not helpful for learning the material – instead you might ask “What problems did you feel like you got the most out of?”, “What was the most challenging, and why?”, “Can you summarize the work our group did?”
- Copying from the answer key BEFORE trying the problem yourself – while some students worry about practicing a problem incorrectly, letting yourself try a problem gives you a “place” to put your learning in your brain. If you make a mistake, your brain now has a place for this learning to go. If you reflect on the mistakes you make, your learning will be even greater!
- Simply writing correct answers as your homework corrections – While your brain might have a place to put your learning, reflecting, writing what you got wrong, and detailing the correct steps for the problem, will increase your learning! You learn faster when you reflect on the corrections you make.

### *Where can I find resources to help me be successful?*

- Zoom in and visit with me! Send me an e-mail to make an appointment if my posted office hours don't work for you.
- Use Discord <https://discord.gg/geMqSqV> to connect with your classmates, pick anytime you want to meet up!
- Use the online Math Help Desks! Located in Zoom at:  
<https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/94627678411>
  - Open from 9am - 8pm Monday through Friday, 11am - 4pm Saturday

### *Other*

Acts of academic dishonesty are regarded by the college as very serious offenses. Penalties will be the maximum permitted by the college.

LBCC maintains a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in employment and admissions, without regard to race, color, sex, marital and/or parental status, religion, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, Vietnam era, or veteran status.

The LBCC community is enriched by diversity. Each individual has worth and makes contributions to create that diversity at the college. Everyone has the right to think, learn, and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodation but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the CFAR website at [www.linnbenton.edu/cfar](http://www.linnbenton.edu/cfar) for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789

### **MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES ON CAMPUS**

- [Wear a mask or face covering](#) indoors at all times. Your mask or face covering must be properly worn (fully covering nose and mouth and tight-fitting). Mesh masks, face shields, or face covering that incorporates a valve designed to facilitate easy exhalation are not acceptable. If you have a medical condition or a disability that prevents you from wearing a mask or cloth face covering, you must obtain an accommodation from CFAR (Center for Accessibility Resources) to be exempt from this requirement.
- State guidelines do not limit class size. Physical distancing accommodations can be made upon request and cleaning supplies are also available for personal use.

