

Instructors	Kevin Meek (§901) krmeek2@alaska.edu	Leah Berman (§902) lwberman@alaska@alaska.edu
Instructor Office	Chapman 301C	Chapman 102
Office Hours	Announced on Canvas	
Meeting Times	MWF 10:30am–11:30am	MWF 11:45am–12:45pm
Classroom	Rasmuson Library Rm 660	Rasmuson Library Rm 660
Prerequisites	ALEKS score ≥ 30 , or a grade of B or better in MATH F055, MATH F062 or MATH F068, or permission of the instructor	
Required text	<i>Math in Society</i> by David Lippmann	
Required Materials	A non-programmable calculator.	
Course Website	https://uaf-math.github.io/math113/	

Overview & Student Learning Outcomes

Mathematical reasoning shapes the decisions we make and the systems we navigate every day. This course explores how mathematical thinking helps us analyze problems ranging from the political to the personal. Topics will include the mathematics of voting systems; strategies for fair division; finding efficient routes and schedules; understanding financial mathematics; and introductory cryptography.

At the completion of the course, students will:

- know how to determine the winner of an election using a variety of voting methods and understand the strengths and weaknesses of each.
- understand a variety of strategies for equitably dividing things or tasks between parties.
- use graphs to model commonplace, real-world applications and employ standard optimization algorithms.
- apply a variety of encryption methods and understand the strengths and weaknesses of each.
- understand some basic terminology and formulas of financial mathematics and explore their long-term consequences.

This course is listed as a General Education Math Course. See GER Section at the end for details.

Information about this class In addition to this syllabus, information and materials for this class will be available on the Course Website <https://uaf-math.github.io/math113/> and in the Course Canvas class.

Evaluation and Grades

Grades are determined as follows. (Each component of the grade is discussed below.)

Participation	8%
Homework	8%
Quizzes	15%
Exams (3)	$3 \times 20\% = 60\%$
Final Course Project	9%
total	100%

A	93–100%	C	73–76%
A–	90–92%	C–	70–72%
B+	87–89%	D+	67–69%
B	83–86%	D	63–66%
B–	80–82%	D–	60–62%
C+	77–79%	F	< 60%

Participation in Classroom Activities

During many class periods, there will be a worksheet or short activity to be completed in class. These are cooperative assignments meant to be completed with your neighbors. The primary goal of the in-class work is to start the process of engaging with new ideas in the supportive environment of a classroom, making the outside-of-class learning — via homework — more productive. A student will only earn full participation points for actively participating in class activities.

If you are not in class for a particular activity, you can still get participation points for absences by completing and submitting any worksheets you missed by the next class period. For more detailed instructions on how to make-up class participation points, consult with your instructor.

Worksheets will be collected at the end of each class period and will be graded for completion and effort.

Participation in Classroom Activities will make up 8% of the overall course grade.

Homework

Throughout the semester, there will be weekly written homework assignments. Each assignment will be due on Wednesday at the beginning of class (as shown on the course schedule linked in Canvas/on the course website), turned in on paper. As with Classroom Activities, these are intended for practice. Complete worked solutions to the homework problems will be provided in advance so that you will be able to:

- (1) check your work
- (2) identify what you do not understand, and
- (3) get help resolving misunderstanding.

Effort and completion will count towards a significant portion of your grade, but accuracy does matter, as do organization and neatness.

Homework problems must be written legibly, be stapled, have your name and the homework assignment number, and not have scritchies on the side. See the **Homework Guidelines** on the Homework page for detailed information about how your homework should be written.

Homework is 8% of the overall course grade.

Quizzes

At the end of most weeks, we will have a quiz over topics from the homework assignment that was due Wednesday. Each quiz will be given in the last 30 minutes of class. You will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz independently, using only a nonprogrammable calculator. In the last 15 minutes of class, you will have the opportunity to correct your quiz with the help of your notes, your book, your classmates, and your instructor. Quizzes will be graded on correctness, but you will have the chance to get half of the points back for clearly identifying any mistakes and supplying detailed correct answers.

There will be an additional **Finance Assessment** during the last week of class over the Finance material; this will count as two quizzes. More information will be distributed closer to the assessment time.

Quizzes are 15% of the overall course grade.

Exams

There are 3 exams, scheduled during Week 4, Week 9, and Week 12. Each exam will be 1 hour and will be taken during our normal class period. These exams are not cumulative; they will only test the material that has been covered since the previous exam. Non-programmable calculators will be allowed on these exams. Make-up exams will be given only for documented excused absences. See the schedule for your section to determine the exact dates. If you know you have a conflict with an exam date due to a university-approved absence, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible.

Each exam is 20% of the overall course grade for a total of 60% of the course grade.

If a disaster hits and you miss an exam unexpectedly, email your instructor immediately!

Exam Corrections Policy

For each of the three exams, students who score below 90% will have the opportunity to correct their exams in order to learn from any mistakes. Moreover, a student may improve their exam grade in the process. A student can earn **up to 50%** of missed points for correcting their work, up to a maximum total score of 90%. Only **correct new work** is eligible to receive additional points. *For example,*

- A student who scores **50** out of 100 points may correct all 50 points they missed and receive **25** points for corrections, giving them a combined score of **75** points.
- A student who scores **89** out of 100 points may correct all 11 points they missed but will only receive **1** point for corrections, capping the combined score at **90** points.

Corrections are due one week after the graded exams are returned.

Final Course Project

At the end of the semester, instead of taking a final exam, students will submit a Final Course Project. Detailed instructions and standards will be posted in the **Project Info** page linked in the left menu of the public webpage. A sample description of a project from Spring 2026 is linked there now. Each of the project options is designed to give the student a chance to apply some topic from the course in a setting of their choosing. The projects are due at the time of the final exam.

The final course project is 9% of the overall course grade.

Tutoring and Resources

- The Math and Stat Lab is located in the student success center on the 6th floor of the Rasmuson Library and offers drop-in tutoring.
See www.uaf.edu/dms/mathlab/ for schedules and availability.
- Free one-on-one (or small group) tutoring is also available. You must schedule an appointment; see www.uaf.edu/dms/mathlab/.
- The Student Success Center has *Academic Coaches*, which are undergraduate students who can help you improve your study strategies, identify resources and set goals, offer assistance with personalized study plans, time management, navigating UAF technology, test and note-taking strategies, and much more. You can talk to Academic Coaches by dropping into their area in the Student Success Center on the 6th floor of the Rasmuson Library.
- Student Support Services (uaf.edu/sss/) offers free tutoring in many subjects to students who qualify for their program.

- ASUAF (uaf.edu/asuaf/) offers private tutoring for a small fee, based on student income.

Rules and Policies

AI usage policy

During proctored, paper quizzes and exams, you will not have access to electronic tools of any type, and you may not use books or notes, except as announced. These assessments represent around 75% of your grade.

Feel free to use a calculator or outside resources while completing your homework. It is also reasonable to explore new AI tools like ChatGPT or Claude.ai. However, the point of this course is that you struggle with and learn and understand the material, not recite what a computer suggests, so it is important that you are using your own thinking when engaging with this course. In addition, since quizzes and exams represent the vast majority of your grade, as you do the homework, you must focus on your own thinking and level of understanding. Copying solutions without understanding will have no benefit to your own learning of the material which is the goal of the homework. Writing without understanding is also not a good long-term strategy for passing the course.

Your final project **must be completed using only your own words and ideas**. You may not use Generative AI to produce your final project. You are welcome and encouraged to talk to your classmates about your final project, but it must be completed individually.

Incomplete Grade

An incomplete is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C (2.0) or better) the majority of work in a course (usually all but the last 3 weeks) but for personal reasons beyond the student's control, such as sickness, has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. See the catalog <https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/grades/> for more details.

Late Withdrawals

A withdrawal after the deadline from a DMS course will normally be granted only in cases where the student is performing satisfactorily (i.e., C or better) in a course, but has exceptional reasons, beyond their control, for being unable to complete the course. To apply for a late withdrawal, please talk to your instructor and your advisor.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. It is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and will be punished according to UAF procedures.

Student protections and services statement

Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, Disability Services, Veterans' Services, Rural Student Services, etc. to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this University are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go the following site: www.uaf.edu/handbook/.

General education statement

This course is listed as a General Education Math Course. As such this course is expected to *contribute to meeting the following* four general learning outcomes:

1. Build knowledge of human institutions, sociocultural processes, and the physical and natural works through the study of mathematics. Competence will be demonstrated for the foundational information in each subject area, its context and significance, and the methods used in advancing each.
2. Develop intellectual and practical skills across the curriculum, including inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, problem solving, written and oral communication, information literacy, technological competence, and collaborative learning. Proficiency will be demonstrated across the curriculum through critical analysis of proffered information, well-reasoned solutions to problems or inferences drawn from evidence, effective written and oral communication, and satisfactory outcomes of group projects.
3. Acquire tools for effective civic engagement in local through global contexts, including ethical reasoning, intercultural competence, and knowledge of Alaska and Alaska issues. Facility will be demonstrated through analyses of issues including dimensions of ethics, human and cultural diversity, conflicts and interdependencies, globalization, and sustainability.
4. Integrate and apply learning, including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies, adapting them to new settings, questions and responsibilities, and forming a foundation for lifelong learning. Preparation will be demonstrated through production of a creative or scholarly product that requires broad knowledge, appropriate technical proficiency, information collection, synthesis, interpretation, presentation and reflection.

Official UAF Syllabus Addendum

Student protections statement: The university respects and upholds the principles of due process and a fair and equitable process as specified in the Board of Regents' Policy 09.02 Student Rights and Responsibilities. For more information regarding the rights and responsibilities of students, refer to the Office of Rights, Compliance and Accountability website. You are encouraged to read the Board of Regents' policy carefully to fully understand your responsibilities to our community.

We strive to create a safe and respectful environment for all members of our community. If you have questions about expectations of you as a student or believe your rights are being violated, we encourage you to reach out to the Office of Rights, Compliance and Accountability for help. UAF reserves the right to suspend, expel or take other necessary and appropriate action in cases where a student is unable or unwilling to uphold community standards and campus safety.

For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site:

<https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>

Disability services statement: UAF is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you have a disability, or think you might have a disability, please contact Disability Services (DS) to request a reasonable accommodation. Accommodations are not retroactive, so students should request accommodations as early as possible, since they might take time to implement. Students should notify DS at any time during the semester if adjustments to their communicated accommodation

plan are needed, and must request their accommodations each semester. More information is available online at <https://www.uaf.edu/disability>, and students can reach DS at uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu or 907-474-5655.

ASUAF Advocacy & Engagement: The Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF), UAF's student government, works to represent student voices and improve the student experience. Students are encouraged to get involved in shaping policies, sharing feedback, and helping address issues that impact campus life. ASUAF also offers support in navigating university processes and connecting with the right resources when challenges arise. To get involved or seek support, visit the ASUAF office or email asuaf.office@alaska.edu.

Student Academic Support:

- Communication Center (907-474-7007, uaf-commcenter@alaska.edu, Student Success Center, 6th Floor Room 677 Rasmuson Library)
- Writing Center (907-474-5314, uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu, Student Success Center, 6th Floor Room 677 Rasmuson Library)
- UAF Math Services (907-474-7332, uaf-traccloud@alaska.edu)
 - Drop-in tutoring, Student Success Center, 6th Floor Room 672 Rasmuson Library
 - 1:1 tutoring (by appointment only), 6th Floor Room 677 Rasmuson Library
 - Online tutoring (by appointment only) available at the Student Success Center, schedule at <https://www.uaf.edu/dms/mathlab/>,
- Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406
- The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 102, <https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/>)

For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List (<https://www.uaf.edu/advising/students/index.php>)

Student Resources:

- Disability Services (907-474-5655, uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu, 110 Eielson Building)
- Student Health & Counseling [free counseling sessions available] (907-474-7043, <https://www.uaf.edu/chc/appointments.php>, Whitaker Building, Room 206, Health, Safety & Security Bldg — same building as Fire and Police)
- Office of Rights, Compliance and Accountability (907-474-7300, uaf-orca@alaska.edu, 3rd Floor, Constitution Hall)
- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) or ASUAF Student Government (907-474-7355, asuaf.office@alaska.edu, Wood Center 119)

Nondiscrimination statement: The University of Alaska is an equal opportunity/equal access employer, educational institution and provider. The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth

or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination available at www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

UAF Office of Rights, Compliance and Accountability
1692 Tok Lane

For more information, contact: 3rd floor, Constitution Hall, Fairbanks, AK 99775
907-474-7300
uaf-orca@alaska.edu