SYLLABUS
MATHEMATICS 3134, COMBINATORICS
FALL 2015

INSTRUCTOR: Leonardo Constantin Mihalcea
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OFFICE HOURS (tentative): Wednesday 3:00 - 5:00 or by appointment.


COURSE CONTENT: Most sections of chapters 1-6; depending on the time remaining, additional topics of interest to the students will be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basics of graph theory and enumerative combinatorics.

HOMEWORK: There will be a substantial amount of homework, consisting mostly of exercises from the textbook. The homework will be assigned at least one week before it is due, and it will be collected on Wednesday in class, although you can still turn it in before 5PM in my office. It will be considered late after that. Late homeworks are discouraged, and may result in no credit; the maximum for a late homework is half the credit. Not only that you can discuss the homework problems with your peers, I am encouraging you to do so; but you are responsible for writing up your work individually.

EXAMS: There will be three in-class exams and a final exam. Dates:
Exam 1: Wednesday, Sept. 23 (during class time).
Exam 2: Wednesday, November 4 (during class time).
Exam 3: Wednesday, December 2 (during class time)
Final exam: Tuesday, December 15, 3:25 PM - 5:25 PM; the form is to be determined.

GRADING: The exams will count as following: 1st exam counts 15 %, and exams 2 and 3 are worth 20 % each, final exam 30 %. The homework counts as 15 %.

EXAM POLICY: No makeup tests will be given. If you absolutely cannot take a test then the grade will be replaced by the final exam. You need to tell me BEFORE the test what your circumstances are. Normally, only medical reasons, with a doctor’s note, will allow you to take the aforementioned option. Travel plans are not extenuating circumstances. Students must take the final examination at the scheduled time.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: There will be a substantial number of opportunities that you answer questions in class, and possibly some opportunities to volunteer and solve homework problems at the board. Both of these account for class participation. The students with a
good or excellent record on this will benefit of the "participation bump" at the end of the semester. This typically means that if a student is borderline between one grade and the next, they will be bumped up.