Math 154 Syllabus

Spring 2020

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3:00-3:50pm over Zoom Meeting ([https://ucsd.zoom.us/my/dankane](https://ucsd.zoom.us/my/dankane))

Discussion Section: 4-5pm, 5-6pm, or 6-7pm over Zoom Meeting (urls to join TBA)

Course Webpage: [http://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~dakane/Math154/](http://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~dakane/Math154/)

Professor: Daniel Kane
Email: dakane "at" ucsd.edu
Office Hours: over Zoom Meeting at [https://ucsd.zoom.us/my/dankane](https://ucsd.zoom.us/my/dankane) time TBA or by appointment.

TAs: TBA

Course Description: Math 154 will be an introduction to graph theory. We will cover a number of topics including, basic definitions, trees, colorings, planarity, matchings, and some algorithms related to these topics.

Prerequisites: Math 31CH or Math 109.

Textbook: The textbook for the course will be “Combinatorics and Graph Theory”, Second Edition, by Harris, Hirst, and Mossinghoff. We will also be supplementing some topics with “Introduction to Graph Theory” by Jacques Verstraete, which can be found on the course webpage.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams on May 1st, and May 22nd in addition to a final exam from 3:00-6:00pm on June 10th.

Homework:

Submission Policy: Homework will be assigned due each week excepting the first week, the last week, and weeks with exams. Homework should be submitted on gradescope and will be due by 11:59pm on Sunday the week that it is due. To accommodate exceptional situations such as accidents or serious illness, your lowest homework score will be dropped. If you have an illness that prevents you from completing more than one homework, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. I will attempt to have new homeworks available on the course webpage at least a week before they are due. To get an account for the gradescope for this course (if one was not created for you automatically), use entry code 9WK6VZ.

Write-up Guidelines: Unless otherwise specified, all homework problems will require you to justify your answers. This will usually mean that you provide some sort of mathematical proof to justify your claims.
In addition to this you should make sure to write your solution either in clear handwriting or typed using a computer. Use of \LaTeX or similar typesetting package is recommended (for those unfamiliar, there is a basic introduction to \LaTeX on the course webpage at [http://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~dakane/Math154/latexGuide.pdf](http://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~dakane/Math154/latexGuide.pdf). If the graders are unable to decipher your writing, you will not get credit for it.

**Collaboration Guidelines:** Students are encouraged to collaborate on homework assignments. You should feel free to discuss the problems and talk about how to come up with solutions with each other. On the other hand, you are expected to write up your solution independently of any collaborators, and you should not share written solutions to homework problems with other students before the homework deadline. If you do collaborate with other students on the homework, you should make sure to list any collaborators that you had on any given problem.

**Use of Outside Resources:** You should not attempt to search for homework solutions online or in sources outside of the course text. You may use such sources as a study guide, but if you accidentally stumble upon a homework solution in such an outside source you should cite it in your homework solution. If your solution proves to be too similar to the cited one, you may lose credit on the problem, however failure to cite the other solution will be treated as academic dishonesty.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity will be taken very seriously by the course staff. Breaches of integrity may have broader consequences outside of the assignment in question. The following will all considered to be breaches of academic integrity:

- Collaboration on homeworks beyond the scope outlined in the section above (including sharing of homework solutions with other students before the homework deadline).

- Failure to cite collaborators on homeworks or outside sources used to find homework solutions.

- Collaboration or copying on exams of any kind.

- Use of aids on exams outside of explicitly allowed materials (this may vary by exam).

**Grading:** Course grades will be determined using the following breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterms</td>
<td>2 × 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40%</td>
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I will aim to make the grade distribution so that roughly a third of the class gets As, roughly half get Bs, and a sixth get Cs. I dislike giving out failing grades, and will generally not do so unless you manage to impress me with your poor performance. These may be adjusted up or down a bit if I am particularly impressed by the performance of the class as a whole. I will often give difficult exams and take this into account when determining final grades. A 60% on an exam will often be an average score in my classes, and I take this into account when assigning final grades.

**Schedule:** Below is a rough schedule for topics covered in the class:
Introduction (Ch 1.1)
Trees and Connectivity (Ch 1.3, Verstraete Ch 3)
Paths and Cycles (Ch 1.4)
Structure of Connected Graphs (Verstraete Ch 4)
Planarity (Ch 1.5)
Colorings (Ch 1.6)
Matchings (Ch 1.7)

If there is additional time we may cover:
Ramsey Theory (Ch 1.8)
Extremal Graph Theory (Verstraete Ch 9)