Some Key Info for Math 1106 Spring 2015 v1 (Briefer Version)

An Accessible Course: Math 1106 is intended to be the easiest beginning calculus course offered by the Math Department. With regular work, most students should be able to complete it with a good grade without difficulty.

Still Conceptual even though less calculational. We’ll do much less intensive calculation than alternatives like Math 1110. But please expect to make peace with the basic ideas. We’ll cover a broader range of material than a sequential calculus course.

Simplification of answers should usually only be done when it will help further computation. Exams are without calculators, so unless the question says otherwise, arithmetic expressions (e.g. \( \frac{1\times3+2}{4} \)) are fine. On homework, generally you should use a scientific/graphical calculator to produce numerical answers.

Attendance in lecture and recitation are required. Your grade (even with high exam scores) will be significantly reduced if you do not attend regularly.

Quizzes in Lecture: Unannounced and will count 50-150 points out of 600-700 towards your final grade. Since it is understandable that conscientious students are sometimes sick or have occasional compelling reasons to miss a class, the lowest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes should not be a drag on your grade as long as you regularly come to lecture.

Homework Quizzes: Brief, easy, and intended to confirm your handed in homework represents understanding you have attained.

Grading Notes Files: Every TA will keep a grading notes file recording any extenuating circumstances you report. Please email your TA with such information and they will be glad to record it. We look carefully at these at the end of the semester in assigning grades.

Homework is required and together with your work in section and on lecture quizzes will demonstrate your “commitment to the course.”

No Late Homework will be accepted. Send your TA an email if you are sick and unable to hand in the assignment or wish to suggest an extenuating circumstance for having missed a quiz in lecture or section. Please note that explanations about absences from lecture quizzes should be sent to your TA – not to Dr. Back.

Grading: Details are in the longer course information document. There is no predefined curve or quotas on letters. We’ll give you an idea after exams of generally how your scores are viewed letterwise. (Lower scores on harder exams are potentially equivalent to higher scores on easier ones.) For those showing a solid commitment to the course, things like one bad exam should be on the easier side to recover from. After averaging and assigning tentative letters for the course, we will review each person’s record in terms of any “Grading Notes” or “Bad Day” type extenuating circumstances and potentially increase the letter grade accordingly.

Grading Distribution: I tend to be a generous grader and expect that most students working regularly should not find it difficult to achieve a grade in the B range or above. Since this is intended to be an easier course, we don’t want unnatural incentives for students to take 1106 in expectation of an easy way to a very high grade. For example in 2014, about one third of grades were B+ or A-, while around one sixth were above that.

Prelim Conflicts: Evening prelims on Th 2/19 and Tu 3/24 in RCK201. Notify Dr. Back of conflicts or extended time arrangements by email within the first two weeks of the course. For conflicts please mention the other course involved. No prelim anticipated on Tu 4/28.

No Makeup Prelims or quizzes. Details in the longer course information writeup.

Course Website: http://www.math.cornell.edu/~web1106/index.html

Moodle: This is a Blackboard like (but not Blackboard . . .) course management system running on Math Department (not CIT) servers. We use it because of its better support for mathematical notation. Selected (extensive) homework solutions and sample exam solutions will be there. Everyone enrolled in the course near the end of the second week will have a Moodle account created for them by the Math Department administrators. You’ll use your ordinary netid and password to login. When Moodle becomes active, there will be a link at the top of the course webpage allowing you to login. Please do not try to login before then or in a way different from what we tell you about. It will have zero chance of being successful but may cause serious complications to logging in the correct way.