

**The New Mathematics:** *Standard mathematics has recently been rendered obsolete by the discovery that for years we have been writing the numeral five backwards. This has led to a reevaluation of counting as a method of getting from one to ten. Students are taught advanced concepts of Boolean Algebra, and formerly unsolvable equations are dealt with by threats of reprisals.*  
–Woody Allen, “Spring Bulletin”

Welcome to Math 1272, Calculus II, sections 023 and 024, Fall 2007, etc, etc, etc. Your professor is Ming Chen. Your TA is Ben Rosenfield. If you are reading this on the first day of class, he is probably the person standing at the front of the room talking about something (if class has not started yet, he may not have begun speaking and instead will be awkwardly waiting to speak; he may also be handing out these sheets). He also obviously thinks he’s pretty clever, so you may try using that to your advantage. His office is in Vincent hall, room 504. He spends a lot of time in room 502, though, so look for him there as well (he tries to leave a note on his door saying where he is, but he often forgets). The best way to contact him is via email: rosenfie(at)math.umn.edu. Email is forwarded to a different account, so do not be too surprised if his reply is not from math.umn.edu (he will leave this address secret, so it will be at least a small surprise). Also, his office has a phone. The number to which is (612) 624-1543. Of course, he won’t hear it if he is not there, and he does not know how to check messages, so act accordingly. He will not give out his home phone number.

His office hours will be on Monday and Wednesday, from 3:30 to 4:30. If you can not make these hours, you can also ask him questions using email. He is also happy to meet whenever he is available. Just send him an email or talk to him after class so you can set up a time. His Mondays and Wednesdays are tricky, but his Tuesdays and Thursdays are basically free. He will assume you are joking if you ask to meet on Friday (but if you are serious, he can probably find some time).

The format for the discussions will vary from day to day. Each class will begin with a quiz. Yes, you did read that correctly, and, yes, he is that cruel (if not worse). Don’t worry too much, though. The quiz will be one question, inspired by, if not taken directly from, the current homework (and will not be one of the difficult problems) (he does reserve the right to occasionally use problems from old homeworks and to randomly cancel quizzes without prior warning). And he will drop several of your lowest scores (he hasn’t decided how many), though there will be no make-ups. He will not collect homework (but you should still do it). After the quiz, he may answer questions regarding homework, ramble aimlessly about something, or force you to do group work (in groups). He hopes to have handouts for the important things, and maybe even for the unimportant things (to keep them from feeling bad).

This sheet, along with every other handout he creates this semester, will be available at his website, [www.math.umn.edu/rosenfie/f2007/](http://www.math.umn.edu/rosenfie/f2007/). He hopes to bring copies of everything to class, but this may prove infeasible at some points. To your probable annoyance, he will send out email reminders when he posts new material to the web.

Ben also wants to point out that this sheet is for both of his sections, 023 and 024. Which one are you? Well, if your discussion section starts at 9:05 am, you are in 023, and if it does not, you are in 024. Another way to tell is if your section meets in the geology building, you are in 023, and if it meets in the architecture building, you are in 024. If your section meets in any other building, you are in neither, and you should probably wonder how this sheet came to be in your possession.

Apparently, there is also a “CourseLib” page for the class. He does not exactly know what this is, but it is located at [http://courses.lib.umn.edu/page.phtml?page\\_id=2481](http://courses.lib.umn.edu/page.phtml?page_id=2481). You can also get to this page from either the Math Library webpage (<http://math.lib.umn.edu/>), and selecting “Library pages for your course” (under “Services”), and then searching for your course (remember, your Professor is Ming Chen), **or** from the main library webpage (<http://www.lib.umn.edu/>) by choosing “COURSE SUPPORT: CourseLib.” You should check it often (or at least occasionally) (at the very least, it has all the important information for the course, *including my name*).

Finally, he reserves the right to claim that anything written above is meant ironically.