Outline for Math 279 Section 1
Introduction to Finite Mathematics
Spring 2005

Meetings: MWF 12:30-1:20 in SH 109
Instructor: Guram Bezhanishvili
Office Hours: MWF 1:25-2:25, and by appointment
Office: WH 203
Phone: 646-2837
Email: gbezhani@nmsu.edu
Text: Discrete Mathematics with Applications by Susanna Epp (Second Edition)
Prerequisites: C or better in Math 185
Objectives: The main objective of Math 279 is to teach students what a mathematical proof is, how to present one formally, and how to make sure that it is indeed valid. Throughout the semester we will learn basics of logic, number theory, and set theory. We will study the concept of an infinite set in a project based on an original historical source by Georg Cantor (1845-1918), the founder of set theory. Hopefully, by the end of semester, we will get the taste of mathematics as a deductive science, rather than just counting, as is believed by many people.

Policies: I will not take attendance. However, students are encouraged to attend every class and show up on time. I expect students to write clear prose in the work they turn in. As you progress in the course, I expect to see you develop mathematical style.

Grading: Your course grade will be determined from homework grades (30%), a historical project (20%), a midterm exam (20%), and a final exam (30%). Homework will be assigned daily and a sample of exercises will be collected periodically for grading. As soon as we start the project, which will most likely be in the second half of the semester, I will decrease the amount of homework considerably. Most work turned in during this time will be parts of the project. The midterm exam will roughly consist of 4 to 5 problems, and will cover material from the first half of the semester. The final exam will roughly consist of 8 to 10 problems, and will be cumulative.

Grad Assistant: Joel Lucero-Bryan will assist in the teaching of this course. Contact information—
Office: WH 30
Phone: 646-6264
Email: jlb@nmsu.edu
Office Hours: TTH 11:00-12:00, and by appointment
Disabilities: If you have or believe you have a disability and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to self-identify by contacting the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located at Garcia Annex (phone: 646-6840). If you have already registered, please make sure that your instructor receives a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD within the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to inform either your instructor or SSD representative in a timely manner if services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.

If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor and/or Mr. Michael Armendariz, SSD Coordinator. Feel free to call Ms. Elva Telles (EEO/ADA and Employee Relations Director) at 646-3333 with any questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.

Other: If you have any questions or comments, please come and talk to me.