Math 131A Discussion Syllabus

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Fall 2021

TA Contact Information

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An explanation of discussion section

Welcome to our discussion section!

During our weekly discussions for Math 131A, we will review lecture material, work through problems, and address questions. You may bring up any questions you have about the course content, about homework, and about material from the textbook. **In particular, you are all strongly encouraged to ask whatever questions you have whenever they arise! There is no such thing as a “stupid” question.**

The problems we solve during discussion will be related to (sometimes even drawn directly from!) the homework problems and will help you to prepare for exams. Because most of the problems will be proof-based, they will also provide for us a convenient opportunity to see examples of rigorous mathematical writing.

After each discussion, I will post scans of my notes to the course CCLE page.

A few words on COVID-19

The transition back to in-person instruction brings both exciting opportunities and new challenges. In order to protect yourself and your fellow classmates, please make sure to be aware of and to adhere to the following measures (which paraphrase the official [Center for](https://www.math.ucla.edu/~ceceliahiggins/))
Education Innovation and Learning in the Sciences (CEILS) recommendations and the official university protocols:

- Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth throughout the discussion. Please see here for a list of acceptable masks. If you need to have a brief snack or drink during discussion, please step outside the classroom to do so. The Wooden Center will provide free masks to students who have forgotten, misplaced, or damaged their masks. **If, for health reasons, you are unable to wear a mask for the duration of discussion, please contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) for assistance.**

- Students without approved exemptions must be fully vaccinated by September 9th. Students who have received vaccination exemptions must test for COVID-19 twice per week. Vaccinated students are encouraged, but not required, to test for COVID-19 once per week.

- Each student must complete a [daily symptom check](#) in order to be cleared to enter the university campus.

If you feel unwell or have been potentially exposed to COVID-19, please stay home. Attendance does not count toward your grade, and so there is no penalty for not being physically present in the classroom. Additionally, a recording of each discussion, along with my discussion notes, will be made available on the course CCLE page shortly after 4:00pm, so that any students who are unable to be physically present will have easy access to the discussion material. I always welcome questions about discussions during my office hours, and so if you are unable to attend discussion for any reason (not even necessarily a COVID-related reason!), please feel free to ask; I will be happy to catch you up on anything you have missed.

Please be aware that refusal to comply with COVID-19 mitigation protocol may result in a dismissal from the classroom and a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Thank you for your help in keeping our classroom safe!

**A quick word on discussion recordings**

In order to improve the accessibility of the course, I will be recording each discussion. These recordings will be embedded in CCLE. Because the video camera will be pointed at the classroom whiteboard, you will not be visible on the recording unless you come up to the front of the classroom. Although the recording audio will come from my personal microphone, it is possible that the microphone may pick your voice up if you speak. **If you have any concerns about privacy, please speak with me before our first meeting.**

**Course resources**

The following are some texts for Math 131A that you may find helpful (NOTE: These are not required materials!):

- *Understanding Analysis*, by Abbott.
Principles of Mathematical Analysis, by Rudin.

The Way of Analysis, by Strichartz.

The following are some web resources for Math 131A that you may find helpful (you can click the bold text to access each site):

- Dr. Laura Cladek’s webpage.
- Dr. Kevin P. Lee’s guide to writing mathematics. Not all of the advice given in this article will be applicable to our course. However, you may find it useful when learning how to structure proofs.

Student resources

I am passionate about advocating for and supporting my students, and I recognize that the transition back to in-person instruction may introduce many new stressors. If you are facing obstacles of any kind that are interfering with your ability to succeed in this course, please feel free to reach out to me. The following are additional resources that may be helpful and that are continuing to operate online during the COVID-19 campus closure (you can click the bold text to access each site):

- UCLA Students in Crisis: [From the website] This program pairs students “struggling with mental or physical health, facing an unexpected challenge or crisis, or experiencing a personal loss” with case managers trained to “support students by exploring options, identifying on-campus resources, and helping students to create a plan for their next steps”.

- Bruin Resource Center: [From the website] The Bruin Resource Center “serves all UCLA students, with a particular emphasis on current and former foster youth, students with dependents, students in recovery, undocumented students, and students impacted by the criminal justice system”.

- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): [From the website] CAPS “is here to support your mental health needs as you pursue your academic goals”. Services include one-on-one and group counseling, psychiatric evaluation and treatment, and a 24-hour emergency hotline at 310-825-0768.

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center: [From the website] The LGBT Resource Center “provide[s] a comprehensive range of education and advocacy services supporting intersectional identity development as well as fostering unity, wellness, and an open, safe, and inclusive environment for UCLA’s LGBTQ community”.

- Center for Accessible Education (CAE): The CAE assists students with requesting and enforcing disability accommodations.

- Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars: [From the website] The Dashew Center is “the central hub for resources, support and advocacy for inter-
national students and scholars”.

- **UCLA Title IX Office:** [From the website] “The Title IX Office receives reports of gender discrimination, including allegations of sexual harassment and sexual violence.”

- **UCLA COVID-19 Resources:** This is the go-to site for information about UCLA’s COVID-19 policies, procedures, and safety tips.