

Information

Friday, August 16, 2019

Instructor: Long Tran

Email: lt5156a@american.edu

Location: Kerwin Hall Room 3

Course Description & Objectives

The Math Boot Camp is a one-day event open to all incoming MPP students and to MPA students who are pursuing the Policy Analysis concentration. The Boot Camp will review some math concepts, which will prepare you for the more quantitatively oriented courses in the MPP curriculum, such as Quantitative Methods and Economics for Policy Analysis. The objective is to reduce anxiety and improve performance in these courses. The Boot Camp is NOT an introduction to the MPP.

The Boot Camp is not graded, nor is it for credit; it is designed to cultivate a relaxed atmosphere in which students can meet their cohort mates and (re)learn some basic mathematical concepts. The focus is on learning, not earning a high grade.

References

There is no required text. Lecture notes, practice problems, and calculators will be provided. If you'd like to get a head start, or to have a reference on your bookshelf, any college algebra text will do. Some examples are:

College Algebra (2016, 12th Ed.) by Lial, Hornsby, Schneider, & Daniels. Pearson.

College Algebra (2012, 6th Ed.) by Blitzer. Pearson.

College Algebra (2015, 5th Ed.) by Beecher, Penna, & Bittinger. Pearson.

* You can find used, older editions of these texts online for < \$10.00.

** < is the symbol for "less than" – see, you're learning already!

Tentative Schedule

8:30 – 9:00	Breakfast & Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Introductions & Announcements
9:15 – 10:25	Lecture 1 (Real Numbers, Arithmetic, Fractions, & Exponents)
10:25 – 10:45	Break & Practice
10:45 – 11:45	Lecture 2 (Logarithms & Notation)
11:45 – 12:00	Break & Practice
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Lecture 3 (Probability)
2:00 – 2:20	Break & Practice
2:20 – 3:10	Lecture 4 (Graphs)
3:10 – 3:30	Break & Practice
3:30 – 4:40	Lecture 5 (Algebra & Calculus)
4:40 – 5:00	Break & Practice & Exit Surveys

*** Practice problems will be assigned over breaks.