

## Math 259 - Spring 2019 Final Exam Information

The Final Exam will be in our usual classroom (Votey 254) on Monday May 6 between 1:30pm and 4:15pm.

**If you are signed up to take the final exam**, please note this Final Exam University policy:

Students who are absent from a final exam for any reason must report that fact and the reason, in writing<sup>1</sup>, to their instructor within 24 hours. If the absence is due to any situation beyond the reasonable control of the student (e.g., illness or family tragedy), the instructor must provide the student with the opportunity to complete the course requirements. At the instructor's discretion, this may be an exam or some other suitable project. The instructor may require evidence in support of the student's reason for absence.

(Of course, if you decided not to take the final exam, you do not need to contact me on the day of the exam to let me know again.)

What we will do is a bit complicated, so I am outlining this here so everyone is on the same page. **If anything is unclear at all, please ask!** I would rather answer a thousand questions than have a single person do poorly because they did not understand the rules of the game.

### What material will be on my final exam?

- If you are happy with your grade/state of knowledge, you do not have to take the Final Exam. **You must notify me in writing that you will not take the Final Exam** by Monday April 29 at 5pm. In that case, your grade as it is on Blackboard will be your final grade in the course.
- Otherwise, you can retest on the material covered by as many or as few quizzes as you want. **You must communicate to me in writing which material you wish to retest on by Monday April 29 at 5pm.**
- If I do not hear from you, I will assume that you are retesting for your two lowest quiz grades. Failure to come to the final exam in that case will earn you a score of zero on the final exam, except if you have documentation supporting your absence, as for a normal exam.

### What happens if I retest on Quiz $n$ , $n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ ?

- Your final exam will then contain a section labeled roughly "Material from Quiz  $n$ " with a description of that material (LWE or Shor's algorithm, etc.). The questions therein will be on the material that was covered by that quiz and homework set(s). The questions might be different from the quiz and homework, and some might be the same. In that sense, it will be like a "normal" final exam; it will test the same material but not necessarily in the exact same way.
- This section of the exam will have been designed to take approximately 30 minutes to complete, and count for 20 points. If you do **better** on this section of the exam than you did on Quiz  $n$ , then I will go into the gradebook and replace your Quiz  $n$  grade with this grade.
- Your score on this section will also count towards your grade on the final exam. If you elect to retest on two quizzes, your final exam grade will be out of 40 points, if you elect to retest only on one quiz, your final exam grade will be out of 20 points, etc. This final exam grade will count for 30% of your grade in the class.
- To study for this part of the exam, you should review the quiz and homework set(s) from that part of the course, as well as the course notes and appropriate textbook sections, if any.

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<sup>1</sup>Email is fine.

**More information:**

Your letter grade in the course will be assigned “traditionally:”

- *A* will be assigned to grades from 90% to 100%
- *B* will be assigned to grades from 80% to 89%
- *C* will be assigned to grades from 70% to 79%
- *D* will be assigned to grades from 60% to 69%
- *F* will be assigned to any grade below and including 59%

Plusses and minuses will be assigned to students in the higher and lower part of each range, as appropriate.

In addition, please note the following:

- You will not be given any formulae for the exam.
- For each problem, you should write down all of your work carefully and legibly to receive full credit. For each question, you should use theorems and/or mathematical reasoning to support your answer, as appropriate.
- You may not use a calculator or any notes or book during the exam.
- You may not access your cell phone during the exam for any reason; if you think that you will want to check the time please wear a watch.
- The work you present must be your own.
- Finally, you will more generally be bound by the UVM Code of Academic Integrity, with which you should familiarize yourself if you haven't already.

**Note about graduate credit:** There will be extra questions for graduate credit. As usual, this will count as a required part of the exam for any student taking the course for graduate credit. For anyone not taking the course for graduate credit, the assigned grade will be the maximum of the grade including the question for graduate credit and the grade not including the question for graduate credit.