



# Independent Study | in Idaho

**Math 123**  
**Math in Modern Society**

*Providing independent study opportunities for more than 40 years.*



The University of Idaho in statewide cooperation with  
Boise State University — Idaho State University — Lewis-Clark State College

# Course Guide

Independent  
Study | in Idaho

*Self-paced study. Anytime. Anywhere!*

**Math 123**  
**Math in Modern Society**  
University of Idaho  
3 Semester-Hour Credits

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2 – Math 123  
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## 2-Math 123: Math in Modern Society

3 Semester-Hour Credits: UI

### Welcome!

Welcome to Math 123. Be sure to read through the syllabus for the course carefully. Whether you are a new or returning student, welcome to the Independent Study in Idaho (ISI) program. Below, you will find information pertinent to your course including the course description, course materials, course objectives, as well as information about assignments, exams, and grading. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ISI office for clarification before beginning your course.

### Policies and Procedures

Refer to the ISI website at [www.uidaho.edu/isi](http://www.uidaho.edu/isi) and select *About ISI Policies* for the most current policies and procedures, including information on setting up accounts, student confidentiality, exams, proctors, transcripts, course exchanges, refunds, academic integrity, library resources, and disability support and other services.

### Course Description

Discussion of some aspects of mathematical thought through the study of problems taken from areas such as logic, political science, management science, geometry, probability, and combinatorics; discussion of historical development and topics discovered in the past 100 years.

*Required: Internet access, calculator  
10 graded assignments, 5 proctored exams*

**Students may submit up to 1 assignment per week. Before taking exams, students MUST wait for grades and feedback on assignments, which may take up to three weeks after date of receipt by the instructor.**

ALL assignments and exams must be submitted to receive a final grade for the course.

### Course Materials

#### **Required Course Materials**

Tannenbaum, Peter. *Excursions in Modern Mathematics*. 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pearson Press: 2014. ISBN: 978-0321825735.

### Course Delivery

All ISI courses are delivered through BbLearn, an online management system that hosts the course lessons and assignments and other items that are essential to the course.

### Course Introduction

This course will familiarize you with some of the mathematics that can be found in the world around us. You will learn how mathematics can be a tool to describe patterns and to solve problems. You will find that mathematics can at times help us to analyze problems, but may not provide us with a single or easily found solution. It is not the intent of this course to cover mathematics that you may do yourself in your daily life. It is the intent to show the wide range of problems that math can help us to explore and solve.

## Course Objectives

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### Math 123 Learning Outcomes

- Acquire tools in logic, number theory, geometry, probability, and combinatorics.
- Gain skills in critical thinking and problem analysis.
- Gain experience using critical thinking and problem analysis skills as applied to problems drawn from social studies, demographics, history, and modern issues.
- To cover selected material from chapters 1 through 8 and 11.

## Assignments

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There are 10 graded assignments for this course. These can be found by looking at the course BbLearn site. Put your name and section from the book – such as Chapter 5 on the top of each paper handed in. Homework will be graded partially on completion. Certain problems will be selected and graded for correct work and solutions.

### Study Hints:

- Keep a copy of every assignment submitted.
- Complete all reading assignments.
- Set a schedule allowing for course completion one month prior to your personal deadline. An *Assignment Submission Log* is provided for this purpose.
- Web pages and URL links in the World Wide Web are continuously changing. Contact your instructor if you find a broken Web page or URL.
- Add your own recommendations here.
- Introduce and explain any terms that are essential to understanding the course.

Refer to the **Getting Started** in BbLearn for further details on assignment requirements and submission.

## Exams

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- You must wait for grades and comments on assignments prior to taking subsequent exams.
- For your instructor's exam guidelines, refer to the **Course Rules** in BbLearn.
- There are 4 chapter exams for this course; there is also a final exam. The final exam is cumulative.
- For the 4 chapter exams you can have an 8.5 by 11 sheet of paper with notes on one side.
- For the final exam you can have an 8.5 by 11 sheet of paper with notes on both sides.
- These should be handed in with the test.
- You will be able to use a calculator.
- You will not be able to use a laptop, cell phone, or any other internet type of device.

### Proctor Selection/Scheduling Exams

All exams require a proctor. At least 2 weeks prior to taking your first exam, submit the completed *Proctor/Exam Request Form* (available at [uidaho.edu/isi](http://uidaho.edu/isi), under *Forms*) to the ISI office. ISI mails all exams directly to the proctor after receiving the *Proctor/Exam Request Form*. You must schedule the examination time with your proctor prior to each exam. The proctor administers the exam and returns it to the ISI office.

## **Grading**

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The course grade will be based upon the following considerations:

<b>Grades will be based on:</b>		<b>Grading Scale:</b>
<b>4 Chapter Exams</b>	60%	A 90-100%
<b>Homework</b>	15%	B 80-89%
<b>Final Exam</b>	25%	C 70-79%
		D 60-69%
		F anything below

The final course grade will be issued after all assignments and exams have been graded.

Acts of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism are considered a very serious transgression and may result in a grade of F for the course.

## **About the Course Developer**

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Cynthia Piez is a Senior Instructor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Idaho. She has a MS in Mathematics and is ABD in Mathematics Education.

## **Contacting Your Instructor**

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Instructor contact information is posted in the **Course Rules** document on your BbLearn site

### Assignment Submission Log

Send the completed *Proctor Information Form* to the ISI office at least two weeks prior to taking your first exam.

Lesson	Projected Date for Completion	Date Submitted	Grade Received	Cumulative Point Totals
1				
2				
<b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 1.</b>				
<b>Exam 1</b>				
3				
4				
<b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 2.</b>				
<b>Exam 2</b>				
5				
6				
7				
<b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 3.</b>				
<b>Exam 3</b>				
8				
9				
<b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 4.</b>				
<b>Exam 4</b>				
10				
<b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take the comprehensive Final Exam.</b>				
<b>Final Exam</b>				

## Lesson 1 The Mathematics of Elections

### **Lesson Objectives**

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- Know what a preference ballot is.
- Be able to determine the winner of an election using: Plurality Method, Borda Count, Plurality with Elimination, the method of Pairwise comparisons.
- Be able to determine which of the fairness criteria have been violated.

### **Reading Assignment**

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Read all of chapter 1. This is one place where working the problem along with what is in the book is helpful.

### **Important Terms**

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- Players, preference ballot, preference schedule, ranking, voting method.
- Plurality voting method, Borda count voting method, Plurality with Elimination voting method, Pairwise Comparisons voting method, Condorcet candidate.
- Fairness criteria: Majority, Condorcet, Monotonicity, and IIA (Independence of irrelevant alternatives)

### **Introductory Lecture**

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Objectives:

- Use each of the voting methods to determine the winning candidate from a preference schedule.
- Understand how to find the number of different pairs from a set.
- Be able to determine when a voting method has the potential to violate one of the four Fairness criteria.
- Read carefully about Arrow's Impossibility Theorem and think about any impact it could have on your life.

During class, I usually ask students to work on a few problems either before or after introducing a topic. You can try them either way.

There are short recorded lectures that then work through these examples. You can also find these activities at the BBLearn Math123 site.

Try these after reading chapter 1:

1. I had some extra money and decided to treat a class of 66 students to pizza. I only wanted to order one type of pizza and gave the students 3 choices. On their preference ballot, they had to rank the pizzas by 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice. The pizzas were: A – cheese with snails, B – just cheese, and C – pepperoni. I took the ballots and summarized the voting data into a table like this:



choice	23 students	22 students	21 students
1st	A	B	C
2nd	C	C	B
3rd	B	A	A

- Based on these results, which pizza should I order? Justify your answer.
- It is possible that some students will think that your answer is not satisfactory? Why not?
- Think of another way you could use the voting results above to determine which pizza to order that might prove more satisfactory to the students. What would I do and what pizza would I order?

2. Ordering pizza. Students in a club voted for the type of topping they would get on pizza being ordered. They could choose from anchovies, sausage, pepperoni, or mushroom. Here is the preference schedule for the voting: Find the winners with each of these voting methods: Plurality, Plurality with Elimination, Pair-wise comparisons (Hare), Borda.

	7	5	4	2
1 <sup>st</sup>	A	S	P	P
2 <sup>nd</sup>	S	P	S	M
3 <sup>rd</sup>	M	M	M	S
4 <sup>th</sup>	P	A	A	A

3. a) Who would win this election if you used a Pair-wise comparison to determine the winner. If there is a winner, that candidate is called a Condorcet candidate.

	29	21	18	10	1
1 <sup>st</sup>	D	A	B	C	C
2 <sup>nd</sup>	C	C	A	B	B
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A	B	C	A	D
4 <sup>th</sup>	B	D	D	D	A

- Next, use Plurality with elimination to determine the winner.
- Plurality with Elimination has the potential to violate which criterion?

### Written Assignment

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Chapter 1 (pg. 28):

- 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28,
- 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38,
- 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48,
- 51, 52, 53, 54, 55