

MA10103: Foundation Mathematics I

OVERVIEW

- **Unit coordinator:** Dr. B. Sing, Room 1West 4.6.
Office Hour: 13.15 - 14.05 on Tuesdays.
- **Aim of the course:** To teach core A level mathematics skills needed by students of other disciplines (sports and exercise, chemistry, natural sciences). The lectures will assume only that students have passed GCSE mathematics. We realise that some students have not studied mathematics for several years. Please note however that once the course gets going, the pace of learning will be faster than at school level and students are expected to adjust to this pace.
- **Website:** Copies of information, lecture notes, handouts, problem sheets and their solutions can be found at the site:
<http://www.maths.bath.ac.uk/~bs259/ma10103/>
All files will be provided in pdf format.
- **Lecture notes:** Typed lecture notes summarising what was done in class will be made available on the course web page after the lectures (typically at the end of each week).
In lectures it is essential that students make their own notes as well, as there may be extra things given in class. Also, writing mathematics is an essential part of learning it!
- **Lectures:** Monday 9.15 (8West 2.1) and Tuesday 10.15 (3East 2.4).
- **Tutorial (begin in week 1):** Monday 17.15
students whose family names begin with A-L: 3WestNorth 3.8,
students whose family names begin with M-Z: 8West 2.34.
- **Drop-in class:** Students can also ask questions and have time to practise (further) exercises on Friday 10.15 in 8West 2.8. The first session will be on the 12th October.
- **Assessment:** 50% assessed coursework. 50% end of semester formal written examination.
- **Assessed Coursework (each piece worth 12.5%):**
Take-home problem sheet set Monday 22nd October, due Monday 29th October by 12.15.
Class test: Thursday 8th November, 11.15 in 8West 2.1.
Take-home problem sheet set Monday 26th November, due Monday 3rd December by 12.15.
Class test: : Thursday 13th December, 11.15 in 8West 2.1.
Please note these dates and venues in your diary!
- **Weekly homework:** In addition to the assessed coursework there will be weekly problem sheet questions to hand in for marking. Although these do not count towards the assessment, it is strongly recommended that you do them to ensure that you are keeping up to date with the work.
- **Textbook:** The set text for the course is:
L. Bostock and S. Chandler, *Core Maths for Advanced Level* (Nelson Thornes, 3rd ed.). It is recommended that you buy this book, but it is not compulsory. There are five copies (of the 2nd ed.) in the library.
There are a lot of exercises in this book to practise your skills.

Hints for studying this course:

The course is designed for students who just have GCSE Maths.

I know that many have not done maths for up to 3 years.

Please write everything down that goes on the board.

If you do not understand everything in the lecture:

don't panic! I will answer questions as time permits.

But we have to cover the syllabus.

There is more time for questions in the tutorial and if that is not enough time you can ask me in my office hour.

If you get stuck on an exercise, try reading your lecture notes for help first.

Historically the pass rate is very high in this course!

Please note in your diary the dates of the coursework and class tests