Introduction

Our method of doing homework this semester will be new to many of you. We are using the WeBWorK system, an online homework system developed by mathematicians at the University of Rochester. This system is intended primarily for math courses, so it may have features that you haven’t seen before, even if you’ve had online homework or quizzes in other classes.

Homework will be an extremely important component of your grade this semester. It will count for a full 30% of your semester grade. We will have weekly assignments, each of them due by 8:00 PM on Friday.

What is WeBWorK?

As stated at http://webwork.rochester.edu/docs/docs/studentintro.html

WeBWorK is a system that allows professors to put homework problems on the web and allows students to solve these problems over the web. Using WeBWorK, students may try to answer homework problems more than once. After each try, a message appears telling the student whether the answer is correct or not. This allows students to try to find out what they did wrong and hopefully to understand the topic of the question better. Each WeBWorK problem set is individualized (each student has a different version of each problem, for example, the numerical values in the formulas may be slightly different).

Even after completing the assignment, you can try problems again. This may come in handy while studying. Once you submit a problem, WeBWorK will allow unlimited submissions, but will not deduct points from your score, even if you change a correct answer to an incorrect one.

After the due date, WeBWorK will make the answers available to you. Be aware, however, that the answers are only for your homework set. Other students will receive similar, but not identical, sets. The method used to solve problems will remain the same, but the actual answers will differ.

Getting Started

To get started with your first assignment, first go to the WeBWorK site at http://hosted2.webwork.rochester.edu/webwork2/UWSP_math119

The URL is also listed in the syllabus and linked from the course webpage. In addition, you can click on the link in the online version of the syllabus or this handout. Your username and initial password are the same as your UWSP e-mail address (e.g., if your email address is nwoda999@uwsp.edu, then you should enter nwoda999 for both the username and password.

After logging on, you should immediately change your password. Choose the “Password / Email” option at the left to do this. If you are using an e-mail address other than your standard UWSP address, you should change it in this menu as well. Be sure to keep
track of your new password. If you forget it, let me know as soon as possible, as I can reset it. *Forgetting your password is not an acceptable excuse for failing to do a homework assignment.*

We are now ready to start our first assignment. Choose “Homework Sets” from the menu at the left, and notice that “Assignment 1” is available. Start the assignment by clicking on the link “Assignment 1”. (Notice we also have a choice to download a hard copy of the assignment. To do this, click the circle to the left of “Assignment 1”, and then choose the “Download Hardcopy for Selected Set” button. Click whichever options you wish, and then select the “Generate hardcopy” button.) Click “Problem 1” and read the directions, then fill in the blank as appropriate. You must select “Submit Answers” for the system to recognize your answer. Do not go on to the next problem without clicking that button. When done with the problem, click on the “Next” arrow at the top of the page. WeBWorK gives you instant feedback. Try entering some incorrect answers and see what happens. Remember, so long as you enter the correct answer once, WeBWorK will give you credit for it.

When you’re done, log out by choosing the “Log Out” link in the upper right corner.

At any point, you may contact me by clicking the “E-mail instructor” button at the bottom of the page. Be sure to do this whenever you have technical difficulties with the system, but this you may also use this button if you need help with a problem.