HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

Failure to adhere to any of the following may result in the loss of points.

Homework must be submitted by 5:00pm on the date that it is due. Late homework will not be accepted, unless accompanied by proper documentation. If you choose to turn your homework in at a time other than recitation, you must either hand the assignment to me (in my office or wherever else you might find me) or to the receptionist at the front desk of the Math Tower. Unacceptable means of submitting homework include (but are not limited to) slipping an assignment under my door, handing it to one of my office mates, and leaving it on my desk.

Homework must be submitted on standard 8½"x11" paper (either notebook paper or printer/copier paper). The pages of your homework should have smooth edges. This means that if you tear pages from a spiral notebook, you should remove the frilly edges. If you have multiple pages, you must staple them together. Do not assume that a stapler will be provided for you. Please leave sufficient margins on all sides so that the grader may make notes and/or corrections if necessary.

Put the following information in the upper right hand corner of the first page: Your name; “Math 254”; my name; and the meeting time of your recitation section. List the homework number along with the exercises that were assigned to be turned in on the first line of the main document.

Label each problem in Chapter.Section.Exercise format (e.g. 14.1.2 for exercise #2 in section 1 of chapter 14). Write out the statement of the problem (or a reasonable facsimile) before you write your solution. It should be clear to the grader what problem you are trying to solve without needing to refer to the textbook.

Put some effort into what you write. Make sure that it is both legible (i.e. I can read it) and coherent (i.e. the writing flows left to right, top to bottom and makes sense). Avoid using abbreviations and symbols that aren’t in your textbook. The “blackboard math” that I use to give solutions in recitation (usually used to save precious class time and/or board space) is probably not acceptable for your written work. In particular, you probably shouldn’t be using arrows of any kind unless it’s in the context of a limit or vector.
Solutions must include all relevant work. Simply providing the answer is insufficient. You must demonstrate that you understand the material. A good rule of thumb is to write your solution as if you were presenting it to one of your peers. Any step that doesn’t have a very basic and/or simply stated Math 15x explanation (i.e. “log laws”, “quotient rule and basic algebra”, “u-sub”) is probably not a good one to skip.

Make sure to use proper notation. If you’re taking a limit, write \( \lim_{x \to a} \) where it’s supposed to go. Use the equal sign to say two things are equal (especially if that’s what you’re meant to show!!). Using the correct symbols to communicate mathematics is a big part of demonstrating your understanding.

Do not give approximations to numerical answers; if the correct answer is \( \pi \), write \( \pi \) as opposed to 3.14159 or 3.14159.... That goes for any number that shows up in the course of your solution. E.g. if the upper limit of some integral is \( \frac{2+\sqrt{7}}{5} \), do not use 0.92915 or 0.92915... as your upper limit. Either use \( \frac{2+\sqrt{7}}{5} \) or use another symbol which does not already have a defined meaning (usually a letter) in its place.