SYLLABUS

Finite Math, May Term, 2009

Instructor:  James A. Davis  Office hours:  Every day 3-4
206 Jepson Hall
289-8094

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Our text, For all practical purposes, emphasizes the real world applications of mathematics. How can mathematics help with scheduling events? How do we fairly distribute assets in a divorce settlement? Why should we have confidence in using our credit cards to buy things over the internet? What are mortgages all about? These questions all require a mathematical perspective, and we will work on developing our mathematical skills in the following areas: (i) business planning; (ii) game theory; (iii) communication; (iv) money issues. We will consider one of these topics each week.

Other than the two test days, each class time will start with questions. I will answer 3 questions at the start of class: you may want to agree ahead of time which 3 questions are most important. We will do a little new material, and then we will have a quiz. We will have a short break after the quiz, and then we will do more new material. Since this class meets every day, you will be expected to have completed the assigned homework by the next class meeting in preparation for the quizzes. We will have a test on Friday June 5 and a second test on Friday June 19.

GRADING: Each quiz will be worth 20 points. We will have fifteen quizzes. The quiz average will be one third of your final grade, and each test will also be one third of your final grade. The first test will cover the material for the first two weeks of the course, and the second test will cover material from the second two weeks of the course. There will not be a comprehensive final: the second test will take place during the final period.

ATTENDANCE: You are permitted one excused absence. Each absence beyond the first, excused or not, will result in a deduction of 10 points on a test. If you exceed five absences, you will fail the course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: You are not allowed to receive help on any of the graded assignments. You are expected to bring your own calculator to class every day: no sharing of calculators will be permitted.