

MA 405 (002) - Class Axioms & Expectations

Axioms

The following axioms come from an article that Frederico Ardila wrote about cultivating diversity in mathematics classrooms. I commit to conducting our class in a manner that is consistent with these principles, and I expect that students enrolled in this course do the same.

1. Mathematical potential is distributed equally among different groups, irrespective of geographic, demographic, and economic boundaries.
2. Everyone can have joyful, meaningful, and empowering mathematical experiences.
3. Mathematics is a powerful, malleable tool that can be shaped and used differently by various communities to serve their needs.
4. Every student deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

Expectations

The following suggestions and expectations help cultivate a classroom environment consistent with the axiomatic system outlined above.

1. Let's **attend every class**. If you are unable to attend a class, please watch the video lectures as soon as possible.
2. Let's **keep our cameras on**, if you are comfortable doing so. Teaching to a blank screen is not only awkward for the instructor, but it is also not conducive to your best possible learning experience. (Note: I understand that there will be some days when some of us just cannot have our cameras on, and that is okay.)
3. Let's **come to class a few minutes early**, if possible. I would love the opportunity to chat with you all about things unrelated to math. This helps us all get to know each other better.
4. Let's **stay a couple minutes late**, if your schedule permits. One thing I miss about teaching in person is getting the opportunity to talk to students as we walk out of the classroom.
5. Let's **respect one another**. This virtual classroom is a safe space, where we value input from all those involved. We should feel comfortable asking questions, making mistakes, and learning together, free of judgement. (Note: I will make mistakes.)
6. Let's **use the chat** feature of Zoom. I may not always be able to monitor the chat during live classes, but I can see it after the fact and adjust my next lesson. Talking to your classmates in the chat is also beneficial. If you miss something, a classmate may be able to help you get back on track.
7. Let's **speak up**. If something I am doing is not serving you well, please let me know. This class is not for me; it's *for you*. If I have inadvertently scheduled a test, quiz, etc. on a religious or cultural holiday, let me know, and I will fix it. If you get totally behind, let me know, and we will work out a plan. If you need a homework extension because you have a super hectic week, let me know before the deadline, and I can extend it.
8. Let's **take wellness days off**. Seriously, do not do work for this class on the wellness days. They're there for a reason. Work hard on "normal" days, and give yourself a break on wellness days.
9. Let's **have fun**. The more fun we have in lecture, the more we all want to be here. The more we all want to be here, the more comfortable we are. The more comfortable we are, the more we can learn.