

Math 456 - Complex Variables, Spring 2021 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Brian Leary

Email: Brian.Leary1@mail.wvu.edu

Office: Learning Resource Center 323K

Office hours: Social distancing guidelines necessitate that I will only be able to meet in-person in my office by appointment. I will be available for virtual face-to-face office hours on Google Meet using the meeting code TechMathLeary during the following times:

Mon 1-2, Tues 11-12, Wed 1-2 & 6-7, Fri 11-12 & 1-2

Class Room/Time: Learning Rcr Ctr 322, MWF 2:00-2:50 pm

Course website: community.wvu.edu/~bal0018/math456S21.html

Homework assignments and course announcements may be posted on the website or sent via email. Please be sure to check the website regularly, and to regularly check the email address you have on record. You are responsible for any information posted on the course website.

Textbook: There is no required textbook for the class. An optional supplementary textbook that you may wish to use is *Complex Variables and Applications*, 8th edition, by Brown and Churchill. I can also give other recommendations for complex analysis books upon request, both at the level of this course and more advanced.

Catalog Data: MATH 456. Complex Variables. (3-0) Credits 3. Complex numbers, functions of a complex variable; analytic functions; the logarithm and related functions; power series; Laurent series and residues; conformal mapping and applications.

Prerequisite: MATH 251

Course material: After spending the entire calculus sequence studying functions of real variables, we now investigate what happens if we instead look at functions of complex variables. This course will start with some simple arithmetic and algebra with this new system of numbers, before investigating how differential and integral calculus work in this world, which will yield some surprising and beautiful properties. A full list of topics can be found on the next page.

Course Objective: Upon completion of the course the student should have a sufficient understanding of the techniques of complex analysis to apply them to problems in engineering and the physical sciences.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Work with complex functions.
2. Work with analytic functions and use the Cauchy-Riemann equations.
3. Integrate complex functions and use the Cauchy-Goursat Theorem and the theory of residues.
4. Determine Taylor and Laurent series for complex functions.

Topics:

1. Complex Numbers (Chapter 1) - 6 days

- (a) Algebra in \mathbb{C} (b) Geometry in the complex plane

2. Elementary Functions (Chapter 3) - 3 days

- (a) Exponential function (c) Trigonometric Functions
(b) Branches of Logarithmic Functions (d) Hyperbolic Functions

3. Analytic Functions (Chapter 2) - 6 days

- (a) Limits and Continuity (c) Cauchy-Riemann Equations
(b) Differentiation (d) Analytic Functions

4. Integrals (Chapter 4) - 6 days

- (a) Line integrals (d) Morera's Theorem
(b) Cauchy-Goursat Theorem (e) Liouville's Theorem
(c) Cauchy Integral Formula (f) Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

5. Series (Chapter 5) - 5 days

- (a) Taylor series (c) Convergence of series
(b) Laurent series (d) Integration and differentiation of series

6. Residues and Poles (Chapters 6 and 7) - 5 days

- (a) Residue Theorem (c) Evaluation of improper real integrals
(b) Computing residues at poles (d) Integrals involving sine and cosine

7. Mapping by Elementary Functions (Chapter 8) - 4 days

- (a) Linear functions (c) Complex Exponential Function and other
(b) Linear fractional transformations Special Functions

8. Conformal Mapping (if time permits) (Chapter 9)

Grading: Your final grade will be based on homework, three exams during the semester, and a final exam. Your final course score will be computed via the following grading scheme:

- 20% Homework + 20% Exam 1 + 20% Exam 2 + 20% Exam 3 + 20% Final Exam

Letter Grade Cutoffs: A: 90%, B: 80%, C: 70%, D: 60%, F: below 60%

Homework: Homework problems will be assigned weekly. I will write out homework assignments and post them on the course website, though additional optional problems from the supplementary textbook may be suggested. The homework is the most important part of this class. To be more precise, not knowing how to do the homework is the most important part of this class. At this level, mathematics is learned by trying to solve problems and failing over and over again. Therefore, you should be prepared to spend many hours each week in frustration, finding flaws in your arguments, or simply stuck not knowing what to do next! To that end, you are expected to write out your own solutions for the homework problems. Any verbatim copying of solutions, either from another student or from a textbook or online resource, is prohibited and is considered plagiarism.

Exams: There will be three exams during the semester, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 17; Friday, March 12; and Wednesday, April 7. These will be 50 minute exams taken during the regular lecture time. The final exam time has been set by the university, and will be on Wednesday, May 5 from 1:00-2:50 pm. Make-up exams will only be given to students with excused absences, and such make-up exams must be scheduled within 24 hours of the missed exam.

Getting Help: Always remember: asking for help when you need it is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength! Please feel free to virtually attend my office hours or email me if you have questions about the course material. If you are unable to make it to my regularly scheduled office hours, I am willing to make an appointment to meet at another time if possible. Additionally, you can get help in the Math Tutoring Lab in LRC 323 from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Free tutoring is also available through Student Support Services, located in Benedum 130, and the Student Success Center, located in the library on the second floor of LRC. Finally, I would also encourage the formation of study groups, to learn from each other and help each other learn.

Institutional Policies: Students are responsible for reviewing policies on inclusivity, academic integrity, incompletes, sale of course materials, sexual misconduct, adverse weather, as well as student evaluation of instruction, and days of special concern/religious holiday statements. For these detailed policies of West Virginia University, please review:
<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements>.

Class policies:

- Graphing or programmable calculators will never be allowed during any exams. Scientific calculators will be considered on an exam by exam basis. You may use any calculator to help you do the homework if you wish, but you should keep in mind that you may be required to solve similar problems without a calculator on the quizzes and exams.
- If you believe a problem on a homework assignment or midterm exam has been graded incorrectly, you must notify the instructor of your complaint within 7 days of the date the exam is handed back. If you are unable to retrieve your graded material at the time it is handed back, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor to retrieve the material at another time.

Special Notes:

- In ordinary circumstances, attendance of each lecture would be highly recommended. Regular attendance tends to lead to better understanding of the course material, which tends to lead to better performance on exams. However, the health and safety of everyone in our campus community depends largely on you making sure to stay away from campus if you feel symptoms of illness. If everything works the way it is supposed to work, lectures may be able to be streamed live online or recorded upon request, so that you can still attend class remotely. While remote viewing of lectures is not quite the same as active in-person engagement in class, it's still a good way of learning the material and staying involved in the class.
- WVU is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Should campus operations change because of health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is possible that this course will move to a fully online delivery format. If that occurs, students will be advised of technical and/or equipment requirements, including remote proctoring software.

In a face-to-face environment, our commitment to safety requires students, staff, and instructors to observe the social distancing and personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines set by the University at all times. While in class, students will sit in assigned seats when applicable and wear the required PPE. Should a student forget to bring the required PPE, PPE will be available in the building for students to acquire. Students who fail to comply will be dismissed from the classroom for the class period and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for further sanctions.

If a student becomes sick or is required to quarantine during the semester, they should notify the instructor. The student should work with the instructor to develop a plan to receive the necessary course content, activities, and assessments to complete the course learning outcomes.