MATH 301–Introduction to Combinatorial Theory **Colorado State University**
11:00 AM–11:50 AM, Engineering Room E203 (MWF) **Spring Semester, 2026**

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Saul Freedman (he/him), `saul.freedman@colostate.edu`
Office Hours: Monday 2:00-2:50pm and Tuesday 1:00-1:50pm in Weber 218A.
Textbook: *Counting Rocks!* by Adams, Emmrich, Gillespie, Golden and Pries (available for free at `https://www.mathematicalgemstones.com/maria/OER.html/` or on Canvas, together with associated YouTube videos).

Course Content: Counting problems, mathematical proofs, generating functions, graph theory.

Contact Information: Please feel free to contact me via email (`saul.freedman@colostate.edu`) at any point during the semester, regarding anything related to the course, including questions, concerns and feedback on the course (positive or negative). Please include "MATH 301" in the subject line of any emails that you send. You are also welcome to drop by my office during my office hours, or to ask questions immediately before or after class.

Attendance & Engagement: Daily class attendance is expected and is **extremely important**. While attendance is not recorded, **missing even one class will put you behind**. It is your responsibility to attend class on time, and to catch up on anything that you have missed, for example by asking other students in the class for any announcements or notes that you have missed.

Homework: There will be weekly homework assignments throughout the semester. Each will be due at 11:59 PM on Wednesdays (starting from Week 2), and must be submitted via Gradescope, which can be accessed through Canvas. Late work will not be accepted. Collaboration on homework is allowed and encouraged, but each student must write and submit their own individual solutions.
For instructions on submitting through the Gradescope website, watch
`https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nksyA0s-Geo` and for instructions on submitting through the Gradescope app, watch `https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quBWbQ5opT0`. If you don't correctly assign pages to each question in Gradescope, then you may receive a grade reduction for the assignment in question. Please ensure that your work is easily readable, for example by capturing handwritten work using a scanning app (such as the Gradescope app) or scanner, not a phone camera app. In typed solutions, all math should be typed/formatted correctly.

Exams: We will have one midterm exam (**11:00 AM – 11:50 AM, Friday March 13th**) and a final exam. Make-up exams will only be given with written evidence of an official University-approved absence. If you know in advance that you will be unable to take an exam due to a University-approved absence, please notify me as early as possible. Failure to show up for an exam or to notify me in advance of an absence can yield a score of zero. Working together is not allowed on exams and will be considered academic misconduct.

Final Exam Policy: Students are expected to arrange their personal and work schedules to allow them to take the Final Exam at the scheduled time. No student will be permitted to take the final exam early. The final exam for this course is scheduled for **4:10–6:10 PM, Wednesday, May 13th**.

Grading: Your final grade will be computed based on your homework (35%), the midterm exam (30%), and the final exam (35%). Exact letter grade cut-offs will be determined at the end of semester, but I expect that they will be approximately as follows:

Percentage	90–100	80–89	70–79	60–69	0–59
Letter Grade	A	B	C	D	F

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty is essential to the existence and integrity of an academic institution. The responsibility for maintaining that integrity is shared by all members of the academic community. This course will adhere to the University's Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code, which address academic misconduct. Students who commit acts of academic misconduct are subject to disciplinary action and are granted due process and the right to appeal any decision.

Generative AI: The use of any copilot/LLM/generative AI service is **not permitted** in any context related to homework or exams in this course; such use is academic misconduct. This includes but is not limited to ChatGPT, CSU-GPT and AI-generated Google search results.

Conduct Policies: It is expected that each student is respectful of their fellow students and instructor. Acting in a way that is not consistent with a positive, inclusive, welcoming environment is very strictly not tolerated. Consequences, including grade penalties or removal, may be applied in the event of a violation of this policy. If there is another person who is, in any way, making you feel uncomfortable, unwelcome, or unsafe in class, please notify me (in person or via email) right away.

Departmental Grading Appeals Policy: Students who believe their academic evaluation has been prejudiced or capricious have recourse for appeals to (in order) the instructor, the departmental chair, the departmental appeals committee, and the college appeals committee.

Services for Students with Disabilities: The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disabilities/health conditions (including chronic or temporary mental or physical health conditions) or other factors, please let me or the Student Disability Center (SDC) know as soon as possible so that your options can be discussed. SDC contact information: TILT Building, room 121; (970) 491-6385; `sdc_csu@colostate.edu`.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus during the course of the class.