



Opening Days and First Week News From the Math Department

We look forward to your enrollment in any of our introductory math courses this semester.

Sectioning

After the introductory meetings, calculus is taught entirely in sections. To enroll in **Math Xa, 1a, 1b, 21a,** and **21b,** you must section by computer during the period starting Monday, September 20th, and **no later than 1:00 pm on Wednesday, September 22nd.** Note that you can re-section as often as you like during this time and your previous entry will be erased.

Directions for sectioning by computer

From a Windows computer, open the SecureCRT application. Use the "Quickconnect" menu command to open a connection with protocol: ssh1, hostname: ulam.fas.harvard.edu, and username: section.

From a Macintosh with OS X, start the "Terminal" application, located under Applications > Utilities. At the prompt, type

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ssh section@ulam.fas.harvard.edu
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and hit return.

The computers in the Science Center kiosks and labs all have the necessary software to section. Your section assignment will be e-mailed to you by 5:00 pm Friday, Sept. 24th.

For more information about sectioning and a step-by-step guide to opening a terminal with SSH, visit:

<http://www.math.harvard.edu/sectioning>

<http://www.math.harvard.edu/sectioning/help.html>

Online Placement

As a supplement to the pencil-and-paper placement exam, the Mathematics Department is making available a system of online placement exams. These exams are sponsored by a grant from the Provost's Fund for Innovation in Information Technology. Each online exam consists of 30–40 multiple-choice questions and can be taken at

any time from any networked computer. The online exam will be left operational throughout the first weeks of the term.

For good advice about placement from human beings, please see one of the math department's advisors. A table of advisors and available times can be found on the sectioning web page indicated above.

For more information or to take the online placement exam, visit:

<http://math.placement.fas.harvard.edu/>

Math Warm-Up Series

The Math Warm-Up Series has been inaugurated this year. The department will offer a series of talks by faculty members about topics particularly useful for first-year students and those taking math courses at Harvard for the first time. There are sessions about:

- Refreshing your memory on certain precalculus topics that you will need to use in calculus, such as algebra, trigonometry, and logarithms
- Advice for new students about course selection, how to use technology such as calculators and computer, and how to use Harvard's resources for students
- Additional topics which are edifying as well as very useful in calculus courses, such as conic sections and complex numbers.

All talks will take place in Science Center Hall D, from September 21 through 24 between 1:00 and 4:30pm. A complete schedule and more information can be found at the series' web site:

<http://www.math.harvard.edu/2004/MWUS>