

# Two Versions of the Course

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Because of the pandemic, I am offering students the following option: they can choose to take an easier, or a harder, version of the course. Students must tell me, by 11:59pm on Friday May 29, which version of the course they want to take.

The two versions of the course are as follows: the ‘pandemic’ version, and the ‘non-pandemic’ version. The pandemic version is easier, and the non-pandemic version is harder. Basically, students who take the pandemic version will (i) have fewer homework problems, and (ii) be graded more leniently. Students who take the non-pandemic version will (i) have more homework problems, and (ii) be graded more strictly.

For specifics, see below.

## 1 Pandemic Version

If you choose to take the pandemic version of this course, then the following will apply to you.

1. Weekly questions: every week, you must post a question to the corresponding discussion thread for that week.
  - So you must post as many questions as those taking the non-pandemic version of the course.
2. Weekly lectures: for each of weeks 1-5, you must attend—or watch a recording of—the lecture for that week.
  - So you must watch the same lectures as those taking the non-pandemic version of the course.
3. Homework: you are only required to do even-numbered problems.
  - So for instance, in homework 1, you are only required to do problems 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12.
4. Final: you must do all the problems on the final.
  - So you must complete the same exam problems as those taking the non-pandemic version of the course.
5. Grading: your homeworks, and your final, will be graded more leniently than normal.
  - In particular, so long as you make a real effort to solve a problem, you will get most of the points for that problem. Of course, if you just write nonsense, you will not get many points. And if you do not even attempt the problem, then you will not get any points. But if you demonstrate to me that you tried, hard, to get the answer, then you will get at least a majority of the points.

## 2 Non-Pandemic Version

If you choose to take the non-pandemic version of this course, then the following will apply to you.

1. Weekly questions: every week, you must post a question to the corresponding discussion thread for that week.
  - So you must post as many questions as those taking the pandemic version of the course.
2. Weekly lectures: for each of weeks 1-5, you must attend—or watch a recording of—the lecture for that week.
  - So you must watch the same lectures as those taking the pandemic version of the course.
3. Homework: you must do all the problems.
  - For instance, in homework 1, you must do all of problems 1-12.
  - So you must do more homework problems than those taking the pandemic version of the course.
4. Final: you must do all the problems on the final.
  - So you must complete the same exam problems as those taking the pandemic version of the course.
5. Grading: your homeworks, and your final, will be graded in the usual way.
  - In particular, if you make a real effort to solve a problem, then you will get at least some points for that problem. But not necessarily a majority of the points. If you just write nonsense, you will get few—if any—points. And if you do not even attempt the problem, then you will not get any points. But if you demonstrate to me that you tried, hard, to get the answer, then you will get at least some points; though again, you may not get the majority of the points.
  - So you will be graded more stringently than those taking the pandemic version of the course.