

Check-ins Math 108, Spring 2016

Because we only meet for two days each week, and because there is such a large gap between Wednesday and the following Monday, it is absolutely *essential* that you do significant independent work all week, and not forget about the class over the weekend. For that reason, I am requiring you to “check in” at various times this semester, for credit. The required check-ins are listed below, with the number of HW points each check-in is worth. (For comparison, each problem set is worth about 30–35 points.)

- (2 points) Each of you will be required to come to my office hours for a **brief informal interview** (5–10 min). Don’t worry, I won’t ask any probing questions or quiz you about math; I just want to know a bit about your background and your weekly schedule, and I want you to get used to the idea of coming to my office hours.
- (2 points each, total 6 points) There are three required texts for this class: *Reading, Writing, and Proving*, Ulrich Daepf and Pamela Gorkin, 2nd ed. (2011); *What Is the Name of This Book?*, Raymond Smullyan; and my notes on *Writing Proofs*. On **Mon Feb 08**, bring all 3 texts to class, so I can check that you have them.

As a consequence, you need to buy the first two texts **immediately**. As for my proof notes, there are three ways you can get them:

1. You can download them from the course website to a laptop, and bring the laptop in to show me on Monday.
 2. You can download them, print them out, and bring in the printout on Monday. (If you don’t own a printer, note that the handout is 47 pages long.)
 3. You can pay me \$1, and I will make you a copy today that you can pick up at the math office (MH308) during their regular hours.
- (1 point each week) For the rest of the semester, every Fri, starting **this Fri, Feb 05**, you will be required to do one of the following:
 1. Attend our weekly problem session, **Fri, 11am–noon**, MacQuarrie Hall 320 (location subject to change).
 2. **By 5pm**, ask me one nontrivial question, either publicly on our class piazza forum, or privately by email, about the homework that has been assigned. By “nontrivial,” I mean that you need to have put in enough effort to get to a point where you realize what it is that you don’t understand. For example, “I don’t get problem 12” is not good enough, but “I don’t get problem 12 because I don’t understand assumptions and conclusions” or “I don’t get problem 12 because I don’t understand how to use the bracket-slash-bracket thing” or “I don’t get problem 12 because I don’t understand how to use the union of two sets” are all good. Alternately, if you think you have the HW in good shape, pick one problem and send me an email describing your solution.

After I get your check-in emails, I will try to send out a mass email response giving hints on the HW that answer your most frequently asked questions. If you are having a lot of problems, I may answer you individually. (You are also free to ask as many questions as you like!)