

# CSE 390Z: Mathematics for Computation –

## Winter '26

### Workshop Times:

- ZA Tuesday, 3:30 PM - 5:20 PM – *LOW 102*

### Staff:

Staff Mailing List: [cse390z-staff@cs.washington.edu](mailto:cse390z-staff@cs.washington.edu)

- Instructor: Lisa Elkin ([lelkin@cs.washington.edu](mailto:lelkin@cs.washington.edu))
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### Course Goals:

CSE 390Z is a workshop designed to provide academic support to students enrolled concurrently with CSE 311. During each 2-hour workshop for CSE 390Z, students will reinforce concepts through collaborative problem solving, practice study skills and effective learning habits, and build a community for peer support. CSE 390Z **is not** a part of CSE 311 and is a fully separate course. Any student enrolled in CSE 311 is welcome to register for this course.

## Course Content & Grading

This is a 1 credit course, so you should expect about 2 hours of in-class time each week, and 1 hour of work outside of class.

There are 4 categories of work in this course. Work in each category will be graded **Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory (S/N)**. This course is **Credit/No-Credit** and is not graded on a curve. To earn credit for this course you must:

1. **Workshop Participation:** Get an **S** on 7 / 9 (Week 1 participation will not be graded)
2. **Quick Checks:** Get an **S** on 7 / 9
3. **Skill Assessments:** Get an **S** on 3 / 4
4. **Exam Preparation:** Get an **S** on 1 / 1

## Workshop Participation

There are 10 workshops in the quarter, and 9 where participation is recorded (participation is not recorded in week 1). To earn an **S** for Workshop Participation for a week, you must attend your workshop, fully engaging with other students in groups and in course activities.

Should you not be able to attend class due to an extenuating circumstance, reach out to the course staff via email or private post on Ed. We will be more than willing to work with you on accommodations as needed.

## Quick Checks

Quick Checks are short, weekly assignments that allow you to test your 311 knowledge. These should take approximately 45 minutes to complete outside of class, submitted on Gradescope. They are graded S/N on effort, not correctness. There will be 9 Quick Checks throughout the quarter, consisting of two parts:

1. Quick Check Problem: Solve the given problems to the best of your ability.
2. Quick Check Video Solution: Watch a video solution and reflect on your work

## Skill Assessments

Skill Assessments are assignments to build skills that will help you in 311. There will be **4** Skill Assessments throughout the quarter: LaTeX About Me, 311 Homework Reflections 1, Imposter Syndrome Reflection, 311 Homework Reflections 2. They should be submitted on Gradescope.

## Exam Preparation

Our final workshop of the quarter will be a simulated final exam to help prepare you for the 311 final exam. It will be graded on effort, not correctness. If you are unable to participate in person, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make alternate arrangements.

## Late Policy

There are two types of homework in this course: quick checks and skill assessments. All homework will be due on **Tuesdays at 9:00 am**. You will have **three late days** that you can use on homework throughout the quarter. You can split them up however you'd like including using all three on a single homework assignment. **No other late work will be accepted unless you have a valid reason and contact the course staff in advance or have an emergency.** We're not mean or scary, I promise. If there's a problem, please let us know.

# Course Resources

- **Course Website:** The central source of info about what's going on in the class, including where assignments are posted.
- **Gradescope:** Where all assignments should be submitted.
- **EdStem:** The discussion board for the course. Feel free to ask any questions you might have on 390z content or logistics, or reach out on staff mailing list [cse390z-staff@cs.washington.edu](mailto:cse390z-staff@cs.washington.edu) for more personal or logistical questions. We will also use EdStem for all course announcements.
- **Canvas:** We will not be consistently updating canvas. Information on canvas may be partial or inaccurate for large portions of the quarter, and you should not rely on it for this course. We may use canvas's gradebook at the end of the quarter.
- **Office Hours:** All course staff have office hours, posted on the course website, beginning Monday, January 12th. Note that ***we cannot answer 311 homework questions during office hours*** out of fairness to all students in 311. We can work on workshop problems, review section problems or lecture problems, and provide explanations of a variety of concepts.  
We will also have certain office hours that begin with a **~20 minute review** of a particular concept. These office hours will be announced on the course website and EdStem.

## Academic Conduct

Outside of workshop problems, it is expected that you will complete your CSE 390Z assignments **individually** unless otherwise specified. We encourage you to discuss your ideas with other students, but your writing and work must be your own. Additionally, we recommend that you review the Allen School Academic Misconduct Policy as you work with other students this quarter.

## Accommodations

We want this course to be approachable, accessible, and flexible for all students. Please let the course instructor know if you require accommodations for disability, mental health, religious activity, or matters of conscience. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to the course instructor at your earliest convenience so we can discuss how best to accommodate your needs in this course. If any incident occurs that challenges our commitment to a supportive and inclusive environment, please let the instructor know so the issue can be addressed.

Additionally, a list of University of Washington mental health resources is accessible at all times from the course website.

## Acknowledgements

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