

Welcome to Schremmer's FALL 2016

FNMT 016 - Arithmetic. Section 030 (CRN 49617)

Meeting time: **Tuesday–Thursday 8:00 – 9:30**

Room: Bonnell Building **BR-19**

Instructor: **Schremmer**

Many students say “I was never good in Math”.

But, as a well-known mathematician wrote recently in a journal of the American Mathematical Society, “If Americans do ‘stink’ at math, clearly it is because they find the math in school to be unlearnable. [...] For the past four decades or so the mathematics contained in standard textbooks has played havoc with the teaching and learning of school mathematics.”

Another reason is that many teachers say “Math is about figuring how to do problems”. (What they mean of course is figuring how to do what’s going to be on the exam.)

Which is it? To figure out the truth, I will proceed as if we were in court and I will call in my witness: a well known Harvard physicist. After you are done reading, please write an opinion.

Whatever the case, though, **you are used to lectures and I am not going to lecture**. So, now you need to know about me and, again, I will proceed as if we were in court and the witnesses I will call are the students who, one way or the other, expressed their opinion of me on Rate My Professors and elsewhere. After you are done reading, please write an opinion.

I would be interested in reading your opinions—signed or anonymous.

NOTE:

i. I am not up to CANVAS and so we will use <http://freemathtexts.org/CCP/016/index.php> both for **Announcements** and for the necessary **Materials**.

ii. The documents I just handed out are also available from that site.

iii. To email me, please do NOT use either CANVAS or my CCP address because they make it nearly impossible to write *mathematics*. Instead, please use **aschremmerCCP@gmx.com** .

On the other side of this page, you will find a few *most important specifics*.

User Manual (Also Known As Syllabus)

As soon as you can but *before the next class*, please download <http://www.freemathtexts.org/CCP/016/016Support/016UserManual.pdf> because it will help you understand what this course is going to be about and thus to get the most out of the course. The **syllabus**, to be found at <http://freemathtexts.org/CCP/016/016Support/016Syllabus.pdf>, is just the same formatted as mandated by CCP.

Homework for Thursday, January 21

Of course, you are not going to have the text by then so:

1. Please download and study, pencil in hand, <http://freemathtexts.org//Standalones/RBA/RBApdf/RBAchap01.pdf>.
2. Please download and do <http://freemathtexts.org/Standalones/RBA/RBApdf/RBAv4-1Homework1.pdf>. The Homework is the first reality check on your understanding of **Counting Number-Phrases**.
3. Write down the *questions* you have about **Counting Number-Phrases** and be ready to ask them Thursday. Be as specific as you can.

Calendar for Homework, Reviews and Exams:

For after Thursday, please download the Calendar <http://www.freemathtexts.org/CCP/016/016Support/016HW-ReviewExamCalendar.pdf>. It will tell you, day by day, what Chapter you should be studying and what Homework you should be submitting. It will also tell you when the Reviews and Exams will be.

Materials you will need for this class

They are *all* downloadable for *FREE* from <http://www.freemathtexts.org/CCP/161/materials.php>.

NOTE. You will need a **PRINTED** copy of the text, **Reasonable Algebraic Functions**. You can buy it for \$11.20 from the CCP bookstore (but it is often out of stock) or order it for \$9.57 plus shipping from <http://www.lulu.com/shop/alain-schremmer/reasonable-basic-algebra/paperback/product-6065247.html> or you can print it yourself from <http://freemathtexts.org/CCP/016/materials.php>.