Math 290 is a course in which the students learn to read and write proofs. This course prepares the student for higher level courses such as Advanced Calculus and Abstract Algebra. Such courses go beyond learning methods to solve specific problems and delve into the reasons why these methods work.

The text for the course is *A Transition to Advanced Mathematics*, seventh edition, by Smith, Eggen and St. Andre, Thomson-Brooks/Cole, 2010. We will cover most of the first five chapters of the book.

There will be two in-class tests, which we will tentatively schedule for October 1 and November 12. Each of the in-class tests determines 25% of the final grade. The final exam is cumulative. It will be given on December 17, at 1:30 PM. Thirty per cent of the final grade is determined by the final exam. There will also be weekly homework assignments, which will determine 20% of the grade.

There is no class on September 3 (Labor Day) and November 21 (the day before Thanksgiving). Our class will meet on Tuesday, October 9, but not on Monday, October 8.

The web page for the class is [http://math.gmu.edu/~wmorris/290hwf12.html](http://math.gmu.edu/~wmorris/290hwf12.html)

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Feel free to come to my office if you have any questions. I check my e-mail daily, so you can also ask questions that way. Be certain that you understand all of the homework assigned and all of the assigned reading, and that you ask questions in or out of class in order to clear up any problems you might have. Bear in mind that the questions that you ask in class help not only you, but also the professor and all of the others who had the same questions but were afraid to speak up.