Information
Dates: Saturday, August 14th – Monday, August 16th, 2010
Time: 9.00AM – 5.00PM
Instructor: John Marvel
Instructor’s Email: jm1480a@student.american.edu
Location: Beeghly 1

Course Description and Objectives
Math and Economics boot camp is a review of basic math, algebra, geometry, and microeconomics for MPP students and MPA students concentrating in policy analysis. Its purpose is to prepare you for courses that require a basic level of competence in these subject areas. These courses include Methods of Problem Solving I & II, Foundations of Policy Analysis, and Economics for Policy Analysis. The main objective of this boot camp is improved student performance in these courses. We also hope that the boot camp will reduce any "math anxiety" that students bring to these courses. The Math and Economics boot camp, however, is not an introduction to the MPP Program.

In order to cultivate a relaxed atmosphere, Math and Economics boot camp is ungraded and not for credit. We want to encourage you to focus on learning the concepts that are presented, rather than worry about earning a good grade.

References
There are no required textbooks for Math and Economics boot camp. We will provide you with a packet that includes course notes and exercises. If you’re interested in reviewing some of the topics covered, the references listed below are a good place to start.


Schedule\(^1\)

**Saturday**

**Topics Covered:** Notation, Operators, Order of Operations, Basic Probability, Logarithms, Exponents, Fractions, Expected Value, Equation of a Line

**Agenda:**
- 9.00AM – 10.00AM: Breakfast & Introductions
- 10.00AM - 12.30PM: Lecture
- 12.30PM – 2.00PM: Lunch
- 2.00PM – 5.00PM: Lecture

**Sunday**

**Topics Covered:** Manipulating Mathematical Equations, Solving Systems of Equations with One or Two Unknowns, Geometry, Mathematics of Finance, Microeconomics vs. Macroeconomics, Positive vs. Normative Analysis, Opportunity Cost, Comparative Advantage vs. Absolute Advantage, Gains from Trade

**Agenda:**
- 9.00AM – 9.30AM: Breakfast
- 9.30AM – 12.30PM: Lecture
- 12.30PM – 2.00PM: Lunch & Meet second-year students
- 2.00PM – 5.00PM: Lecture

**Monday**

**Topics Covered:** Supply and Demand, Thinking on the Margin: Marginal Cost and Marginal Benefit, Market Failures, Government Failures, Efficiency and Equity

**Agenda:**
- 9.00AM – 9.30AM: Breakfast
- 9.30AM – 12.30PM: Lecture
- 12.30PM – 2.00PM: Lunch & Meet your professors
- 2.00PM – 3.00PM: Review
- 3.00PM – 5.00PM: Policy Exercise & Wrap-Up

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\(^1\) The schedule may change at the instructor’s discretion.