This information may be handed out in class.

What are projects?

You should think of projects as very important homework assignments. The same "academic integrity" rules apply for projects as for homework: The work you submit should be YOUR work (or your group's work), but you can work together and seek help in your work. (It is not like a take-home exam.)

So the PURPOSE of projects is similar to the purpose of homework: It should be primarily a LEARNING experience, and when finished with a project, you should UNDERSTAND the material covered in the project. This is especially true for Project I, but applies to all projects. (In particular, by the end of the semester you should not be making the errors pointed out in Project I, Common Errors.)

There will probably be between 3 and 6 projects for the semester.

Groups for projects.

For some projects, and in particular for the first project, Project I, I will ask you to work in groups of 3 to 5. I would like to begin this group formation by seeing if any of you want to form groups on your own.

E.g., if students A, B, and C want to work as a group on Project I, one of these should send me an email informing me, WITH A COPY TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED GROUP, and then I will send an email to all three of you -- to A, B, and C -- confirming the formation of this group.

Please do this as soon as possible after classes start; then in a few days, I will have a scheme for randomly partitioning the rest of the class into groups.

In the case of group projects, the group should submit one paper, and the grade/score given to the paper will be the grade/score assigned to each member of the group. Please submit the Project Integrity Statement with each final version of a group project, and please be sure the statement accurately reflects what happened with the project.

Important comment on GROUP WORK. The point of group work for these Projects is NOT that the various parts of the Project be partitioned among different members of the group, and then someone puts the parts together to form the whole Project. The point is that ALL members of the group work (together) on ALL of the Project. EACH member of the group should understand ALL of the work that is submitted. (If you want to start working on the Project by assigning different parts of the Project to different members of the group, that is OK. But each member of the group should understand ALL of the work that is submitted.)

Project presentation and typing.

In the case of group projects, I may ask that the paper be TYPED, using your favorite word processing software. In particular, Project I should be TYPED.

For some projects, including Project I, I will ask for a “ROUGH DRAFT”, due date to be announced. The final due date for the project will be about a week after drafts are returned. (Due dates to be announced on the class website.)

While I will not require that the rough draft for Project I be typed, it is much, much better if it is also typed. There are three reasons for this:

- It is much easier for me to read a typed draft than a hand-written draft. In fact, hand-written drafts may not be returned as promptly as typed drafts.

- If the draft is typed, I can note errors in the typing in the draft. If you don't type it up until the final submission, then there may be typing errors which will affect your score on your final submission.

- It is usually much quicker for you to convert a typed rough draft into a final submission than it is to turn a handwritten draft into a typed final submission. So if you get the typing done for the rough draft, you can concentrate more on the mathematics and minor typing issues for the final submission.

Additional information:

Comment on rough draft. Don't put too much emphasis on the word “rough”. It is probably better to think of this as the “penultimate” version, if you know what that means. Your rough draft should not be a bunch of slop which you're expecting me to clean up for you. The rough draft should be an essentially final version of your paper, and the purpose of the rough draft is to give us an opportunity to note errors and improvements before you submit the actual final version for grading.