

Math 108: Mathematics as a Profession and a Discipline

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Office Hours: MATH 822, Tu, Tr 12:00-1:30 or by appointment

General Information

The format of each class is a weekly presentation by an invited speaker/guest, each an expert on a different aspect of mathematics in our world today. Our purpose is to make prospective Mathematics majors aware of (some of the) career opportunities available for graduates with a good mathematical background. In addition, we will try to give a glimpse of some of the uses of mathematics in our world today

Students are expected to attend each lecture, and submit a short (1-2 paragraph) report on the experience. You will be expected to write at college level, and you should convince the reader that you have learned something from the hour; I am also interested in comments about the suitability of the level of presentation, and how appropriate you found the material. **Most essays should incorporate material from links when provided by the speaker.**

Your essay should be written in Microsoft Word and uploaded into Blackboard. You must first log onto Blackboard at

<http://www.itap.purdue.edu/learning/tools/blackboard/index.html>

Directions for uploading your essay may be found at

https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_10_and_SP_11/Student/060_Tests_and_Assignments/Submitting_Assignments

The deadline for each essay is 11:59 PM each Monday, that is, 5 days after the presentation. Please remember that this is a college-level class, and your writing should try to mirror that. I expect good grammar and spelling. This especially applies to international students.

NOTICE: Your final grade will depend only on our judgement that you attended the lectures and thought about the presentation. There are no exams. Attendance is expected at each class. Attendance will be taken.

Academic Adjustments

Students who have been certified by the Office of the Dean of Students -- Adaptive Programs as eligible for academic adjustments should go to MATH 242 and request an Information Sheet for this semester that explains how to proceed this semester to get these adjustments made in Mathematics courses. This should be done during the first week of classes. Only students who have been certified by the ODOS-Adaptive Programs and who have requested ODOS to send their certification letters to their instructors are eligible for academic adjustments.

Students, who are currently undergoing an evaluation process to determine whether they are eligible for academic adjustments, are encouraged to find out now what procedures they will have to follow when they are certified, by requesting the above mentioned Information Sheet from MATH 242.

Large print copies of the Information Sheet are available from MATH 242 upon request.

Course Outline

While this outline tries to be complete and accurate, there **will** be changes in the schedule of the course; these will be announced in class and on the web.

Last updated: 8/19/2013

Date	Topic
8/20	Introduction to MA 108
8/27	Math Advisors, Study Abroad
9/3	Greg Buzzard, Math in the lab: Chemical ID in the blink of an eye. Chairman, Department of Mathematics
9/10	Andrei Gabrielov, Earth Quake Prediction
9/17	Edray Goins, Code Breaking, Work in Government
9/24	Jill Newton, High School Teaching
10/1	Fabrice Boudoin, Computational Finance
10/8	No Class – FALL BREAK
10/15	Cher Yazvac, CCO
10/22	Class Ice cream social. No report required.
10/29	David Goldberg, The academic profession and graduate school
11/5	Epic, software development in the health care industry
11/12	Bruce Craig, Statistics
11/19	Andrew Liu, Operations Research
11/26	Richard Penney, Actuarial Science
12/3	Class Wrap-up. No report required.