

Mathematics 108 -- Fall 2011 (August 5 2011)

D. Drasin, MA 622 11:30 Thursday

The format of each class is a weekly presentation by an invited speaker/guest. The 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 which are likely to be unfamiliar to you.

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 (me!) 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. This should not take a long essay--as you look at the number of students in the room you will see that I will have a lot to read.

The format for submission is to use the link www.blackboard.purdue.edu, log in with your ITAP account, select MATH 108, and paste your essay in the appropriate box. I do not want to have to process Word documents or anything like that, just plain text: **no other format**

will be accepted. The deadline for each essay is

5 PM each Tuesday, 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.

NOTICE: I will read and correct most errors in language, etc., but your final grade will depend only on my judgement that you attended the lectures and thought about the presentation.

I understand that different students have different preparations in mathematics and English.

Should the class be large, students will be divided into groups A and B, with essays for a given talk assigned to one of these groups.

This is a rather new course for the Mathematics Department, and while there is no exam, the hope is that it will enrich your experience with mathematics and Purdue.

You may email me, although I may not check email more than once or twice a day.

My office hours are Tuesday 10:30-11:30; Wednesday 2:30-3:15 or by appointment (MA622). I am glad to meet with you about general questions about mathematics and life at Purdue. This course is meant to make you more comfortable here.