Math 302 Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. C. Rasmussen
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Office Hours: Tue & Thur 1-1:50 & by appointment
Telephone: 594-7241

Class Schedule
Class meets Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 – 3:15 in PA-119.
Final exam is Tuesday, May 13, 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Course Goals
A primary goal of the course is for students to develop expertise at creating mathematical arguments, ones that are both convincing and that explain why such and such a statement is true (or not). Students in this course will develop mathematical power through developing personally meaningful solutions to problems and ways of communicating their mathematical thinking and activity to others. This involves engaging in mathematical discussions with peers, explaining one’s mathematical thinking, questioning and challenging the mathematical thinking of others, and developing a sense of what constitutes an acceptable mathematical justification. The course seeks to improve your proof capabilities and outlook, and your problem-solving background in general. Geometry will be the main vehicle for achieving these aims.

Text
Henderson & Taimina, *Experiencing Geometry: Euclidean and Non-Euclidean with History* (3rd Edition). We will cover Chapters 0-4 & 6-11, and additional chapters time permitting

Supplies
Plastic sphere, rubber bands, overhead markers, ruler, inexpensive compass, protractor

Course format
Class meetings will involve working in small groups on challenging problems, presenting your progress on these problems, however tentative, and providing others with questions and comments on their presentations. Tests will be closed book. Exams may include take-home problems. As with other mathematics courses, it is extremely important that your schedule allows you to keep up-to-date on the work. If you are over-committed, something must suffer. Every theory of learning assumes that the learner is engaged, and not just a passive onlooker or a conscientious secretary. When you do not understand something, try to get it cleared up as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy
Regular attendance is required. Each student is permitted to miss one class without penalty. For each additional absence two percentage points will be subtracted from your course total.
Homework
Homework is vital and will be collected on a regular basis. You should prepare your assignments in an organized and readable form. Messy or otherwise unorganized proofs may zero credit and returned without review. Late homework is not accepted. There will be approximately 10 assignments. Your lowest homework score will be dropped.

Evaluation
Midterm 30% Date to be determined
Homework 40%
Final exam 30% May 13, 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Missed exams can only be made up with a University approved absence.

To be assured the following grades, you need to earn
92% - 100% = A 83%-87% = B 73% - 77% = C 63%-67% = D
90%-91% = A- 80%-82% = B- 70%-72% = C- 60%-62%=D-
88%-89% = B+ 78%-79% = C+ 68%-69%=D+ 59% and below = F

Academic Integrity
Many students find that studying with others is helpful to them, and I encourage that since it gives you extra practice at explaining your thinking. Presenting the work of others as one's own, however, is called plagiarism. Plagiarism is unacceptable in an environment devoted to learning. The penalty for plagiarism ranges from failing the piece with the plagiarism, to lowering the course grade, to failing the course, to expulsion from the university. Hence, you should not copy someone else's homework or make minor alterations and hand it in as your own-this is plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.