Course Syllabus

Mathematics 4010

Instructor: Michael van Opstall

Email: opstall@math.utah.edu (mailto:opstall@math.utah.edu)

Office: JWB 313

Office Hours: By appointment


Course Content

This is a first semester course on mathematics content for elementary school teaching. The focus of the course is on number and operation. A set of learning objectives can be found under the Files tab in Canvas. We will be covering fairly thoroughly the first eight chapters in the Beckman text.

Oral Homeworks

Two problems per day will be assigned to two class members, who will present their solutions to the class at the beginning of the next class period. Over the course of the semester, each student will have presented three total problems. These problems will be graded on the correctness of their mathematical content and on their clarity. Oral homeworks account for 5% of the class grade.

Written Homeworks

Every other week, starting with the first week of class, a written homework assignment will be due. This assignment will cover all material covered since the last one. These assignments should be written up carefully, always explaining the solution as if to an outsider (not to the instructor!). Each assignment will consist of several problems. Three points will be assigned for an assignment that is neat and complete. Seven additional points will be assigned based on the correctness of one or two of the problems. Written homeworks account for 10% of the class grade.

Lab Homeworks

This class has a lab component meeting one hour a week separate from the main class. At the beginning of each lab section, a couple of homework problems will be assigned for work in small groups. These homeworks will be turned in on the same day, and count for 5% of the grade. The two lowest lab homeworks will be dropped.

Quizzes
Every other week, starting with the second week of class, there will be a quiz on the previous two weeks' material. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. My hope is that using frequent quizzes instead of exams will relieve some stress and help motivate you to keep up with the material. The quizzes are worth 20% of the class grade. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**Midterm Exam**

There will be a single midterm exam, worth 15% of the grade.

**Practicum**

For details on the practicum assignment, see the Files tab on Canvas. The practicum counts for 15% of the grade. Completion of the practicum is mandatory to receive a passing grade in the class.

**Portfolio**

All course materials should be kept and collected neatly in a portfolio, due on the day of the final exam. The portfolio should contain all homework assignments, quizzes, and the practicum report. In addition, class notes and in-class activities should be gathered together neatly. I recommend using a single notebook for class notes and starting each day on a new page. The portfolio will be graded based on neatness and completeness, and is worth 5% of the class grade.

**To Succeed in this Class**

1. Count on attending each class period. Valuable perspectives on the course material will be developed in class.
2. Keep up with material as it is assigned. Try to master topics as they come up. Ask questions in class to make sure your understanding of each topic is complete.
3. Be neat and organized, and work on your communication skills. This will be important for your future as a teacher, and, indeed, communication of mathematics is a specialized skill as important as learning the content itself.

**Policies**

No calculators, no late homework, no exam retakes, no extra credit. Sorry. Keep your phone put away during class and participate actively.

**ADA Statement**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.