

Extra Credit 2

This extra credit assignment is to help you learn about reading and communicating mathematics. There are many wonderfully written books relating beautiful mathematics to every day life and explained in terms non-mathematicians can understand. As second semester calculus students, you will have a firm scientific base to help you understand these books. First you must read one of these books. If you have already read one, I advise you choose a different book to make sure you gain the most from the experience. After reading the book you must do **exactly one** of the following two options to prove you read the book.

- Option 1: You schedule an appointment with me and come to my office to discuss the book you read. I will look at your copy of the book and ask you questions about the contents of the book and your opinions about it. The discussion will last 5-10 minutes at which time I will tell you how much extra credit you have earned. Obviously the better understanding you have and more sophisticated conversation you can hold, the higher your grade will be. Mostly I will be looking to see that you actually did read the book and not just read a review on the internet. The last day to have a scheduled meeting to discuss the book is 17 April 2008. You must bring your copy of the book to the meeting.
- Option 2: You write a 1-2 page paper discussing the book. You must demonstrate that you read the book and have some understanding about the subject matter. The paper must be typed, double spaced, and written in times roman 12pt. font. The header must include your name, our class (MA114-401), the date you are turning in the paper, the book you read, and the author of the book. Plagiarism even in an extra credit assignment is unacceptable. I will randomly check sentences for plagiarism using different online search engines. If I discover you plagiarized all or any part of the assignment, I will be forced to discuss the matter with the mathematics' director of undergraduate studies and the result will be detrimental to your grade in the course. All papers are due at the beginning of class on 17 April 2008.

You can earn up to 20 extra points to be added to your homework and quiz total (not percentage) by completing the assignment. So this extra credit can have a decent affect on your homework/quiz average. In addition to the your meeting or paper, you must read and sign the disclaimer underneath the book list on the back of this page. You must then turn in the disclaimer with your paper or at the oral presentation. I hope you enjoy your experience reading one of these great books and decide to continue reading and discussing math in the future.

Book List

- Amir D. Aczel, “Fermat’s Last Theorem: Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem”
- Amir D. Aczel, “The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity”
- John Derbyshire, “Prime Obsession: Bernhard Reimann and the Greatest Unsolved Problem in Mathematics”
- Rebecca Goldstein, “Incompleteness: The proof and paradox of Kurt Godel”
- Stephen Hawking, “A Brief History of Time”
- Donal O’Shea, “The Poincare Conjecture: In Search of the Shape of the Universe”
- Hermann Weyl, “Symmetry”

DISCLAIMER

I have read the University Ombud’s webpage concerning plagiarism at the link:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf>

and understand what plagiarism is and the consequences of plagiarizing another person’s work. I read the book on my own and formulated my own ideas concerning the material. By signing below, I state that all oral and written ideas presented as my own for this assignment are indeed my own words.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name Printed: _____ Book read: _____

Option: _____