

**MA 501-201 — SEMINAR IN SELECTED TOPICS:  
TOPICS IN GEOMETRY  
FALL 2007**

**NOTE:** This syllabus is not in final form; I may need to make some changes in the future.

**INSTRUCTOR:**

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**TEACHING ASSISTANT:**

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**SYNCHRONOUS MEETINGS:**

Adobe Connect, via the website <http://connect.math.wvu.edu>.  
Test Session: Thursday, August 16, 7-8 pm.  
Regular Sessions: Thursdays, August 23 through December 6, 7-9 pm, with the exception of Thursday, November 22 (Thanksgiving).

**ASYNCHRONOUS COURSE MANAGEMENT:**

Moodle, via the website <http://moodle.math.wvu.edu>.

**COURSE WEBPAGE:**

<http://www.ms.uky.edu/~lee/ma501fa07/ma501fa07.html>

**TEXTS:**

1. Dunham, W., *Journey Through Genius*, Penguin, ISBN-10: 014014739X, ISBN-13: 978-0140147391.
2. Course notes, available from the website.
3. You should also get a copy of some college geometry text to refer to.

**TOPICS:** We will treat several major themes in geometry, including some aspects of their historical development, their appearances in school curricula, and use of some software to aid in visualization.

**GRADING:**

Presentations — written and oral: 20%  
Threaded discussion: 5%  
Synchronous participation: 5%  
Homework: 25%  
Midterm: 20%  
Final exam: 25%

**WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE:**

- Thursday — Begin asynchronous threaded discussion via Moodle
- Tuesday, 11 pm — Complete asynchronous discussion
- Thursday 7–9 pm — Synchronous session via Adobe Connect
  - Follow-up from threaded discussion
  - Project presentations from class members
  - Discussion of reading
  - Discussion of homework
- Sunday — Submit homework, uploaded to Moodle by 11 pm.

**ASYNCHRONOUS DISCUSSION:** Topics will be posted on the course Moodle site, and participants are expected to make substantive contributions and responses to others' contributions.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Presentations will be made by groups of 1–3 course members during the synchronous sessions accompanied by a written report. Each course member will participate in one of these. Topics and details on the nature of these presentations will be posted later on the course Moodle site.

**READING:** Readings and some related questions will be posted on the course Moodle site, and participants are expected to complete all of the reading before the synchronous session, ready to engage in discussion on the questions.

**HOMEWORK:** Assigned and completed weekly, uploaded to Moodle in a single file. You may discuss the problems with other current class members and with me. However, when it comes time for you to write up the solutions, I expect you to do this on your own. If you receive assistance from someone else, include a written acknowledgment. Such an acknowledgment is a professional courtesy and will not affect your grade.

**EXAMS:** There will be a comprehensive (up to that point) midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. Either or both of these exams will be expected to be completed in a proctored timed format, administered to you by a trusted individual who will receive the exam from me. I will provide more information on this later.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

August 21 — Tuesday — Last day a student may officially drop a course or cancel registration with the University Registrar for a full refund of fees.

August 23 — Thursday — First synchronous session.

August 28 — Tuesday — Last day to add a class for the 2007 Fall Semester.

August 28 — Tuesday — Last day to officially withdraw from the University or reduce course load and receive an 80 percent refund.

September 3 — Monday — Labor Day - Academic Holiday.

September 12 — Wednesday — Last day to drop a course without it appearing on the student's transcript.

September 19 — Wednesday — Last day to officially withdraw from the University or reduce course load and receive a 50 percent refund.

October 15 — Monday — Midterm of 2007 Fall Semester.

October 19 — Friday — Last day to withdraw from the University or reduce course load. Students can withdraw or reduce course load after this date only for "urgent non-academic reasons."

November 21 — Wednesday — Fall Break - Academic Holiday.

November 22–24 — Thursday through Saturday — Thanksgiving — Academic Holidays.

December 6 — Thursday — Final synchronous session.

December 10–14 — Monday–Friday — Final Examinations Week.

**TUITION:** As usual, ACCLAIM will pay for half of the in-state tuition for the course, and you are responsible for paying the other half. If there are unusual circumstances concerning your tuition and how it will be paid, contact Professor Vena Long immediately.