Mathematics 210G, Section 6: Mathematics Appreciation

Spring 2008

Instructor:
Dr. Patrick J. Morandi.
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Office Hours:

Monday 1:30-2:30
Wednesday 9:30-10:30

Time and Location: Tuesday and Thursday from 2:35-3:50, Science Hall 102.

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. However, course materials will be made available on the course website or from other internet sites.

Catalog Description: Mathematics and its role in the development and maintenance of civilization.

Course Objectives: The main objective of the course is to help students gain an appreciation for how mathematics impacts their life, culture and society.

Course Web Page: sierra.nmsu.edu/morandi/math210G. At this website you will find the syllabus, homework assignments, and course materials. In addition, there is a WebCT page for this course, at which you will be able to see your grades.

Prerequisites: High school algebra, and an adequate score on the Mathematics Placement Examination.

Homework: There will be 7 homework assignments assigned throughout the semester, approximately once every two weeks. They will be graded either satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Homework may come in a variety of forms, including solving problems, commenting on short reading assignments or videos. You may revise and resubmit one, and only one, assignment graded unsatisfactory to improve the grade. You can do this for any homework assignment.

Critical Math Script. You will form groups of 3-4 students and each group will be responsible for preparing a 2 minute script on some topic in mathematics suitable for
radio broadcast. The idea is to create a series called Critical Math for radio modeled on the National Public Radio series Star Date (http://stardate.org/). The staff at KRWG will work with us to initiate radio broadcasts of the best scripts. (Eight scripts from Fall 2007 will be broadcast, once per week, in April and May.) Your scripts will similarly be graded as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. I will be available to read preliminary drafts of your script.

**University Communication:** Official communication to you will often come through your NMSU email. Please access it regularly, or forward it to your current use address, as your success in college may ride on your ability to respond quickly.

**Course Grades:** Grades will be determined as follows:

- 6 satisfactory grades including a satisfactory critical math script will earn an A.
- 6 satisfactory grades not including a satisfactory critical math script will earn a B.
- 5 satisfactory grades including a satisfactory critical math script will earn a B.
- 5 satisfactory grades not including a satisfactory critical math script will earn a C.
- 4 satisfactory grades including a satisfactory critical math script will earn a C.
- 4 satisfactory grades not including a satisfactory critical math script will earn a D.
- 3 or fewer satisfactory grades, with or without a satisfactory critical math script, will earn an F.

Thus, in order to earn an A you will have to prepare a satisfactory critical math script.

**Important Dates:**

- Last day to add a class: 28 January
- Last day to drop with a W: Monday 10 March
- Spring Holiday: Friday 21 March
- Spring Break: 24-28 March

**Incomplete Grades:** Incomplete grades may be given only if a student passed the first half of the course and is precluded from successful completion of the course by a documented illness or family crisis which genuinely precluded successful completion of the course.

**Make-up work:** For a university recognized absence, material including exams or homework can be made up by appointment. If an illness prevents you from attending class, handing in work, etc. you must either bring in a doctors note or in the case of a less severe illness or other excuse notify me by phone or email before class. Student athletes should submit a complete calendar of excused absences within the first two weeks of the semester to allow for planning on my part.

**Class Attendance/Absence Policy:** I will not take attendance. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the information necessary to get homework assignments
turned in on time. A considerable amount of class time will be spent working on homework, so it is to your advantage to attend class.

**Academic Ethics**: Please refer to the “Student Code of Conduct” in the NMSU Student Handbook. Cheating on an assignment will result in an unsatisfactory for that assignment. Some of your work will require independent research and the internet has lots of valuable material relevant to your assignments and scripts. I urge you to examine the university’s plagiarism policies at [http://www.nmsu.edu/~vpsa/SCOC/misconduct.html](http://www.nmsu.edu/~vpsa/SCOC/misconduct.html). Plagiarism is the most serious academic crime, so if you collaborate on journals make sure that the work you turn in is your own. If you use sources other than the text or what I send out, you must cite them.

**Students with Disabilities.** If you have or believe you have a disability and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to self-identify by contacting the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located in Room 244 of Corbett Center (phone: 646-6840). If you have already registered, please make sure that your instructor receives a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD within the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to inform either your instructor or SSD representative in a timely manner if services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.

If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor and/or Ms. Jane Spinti, SSD Coordinator. Feel free to call Ms. Elva Telles (EEO/ADA and Employee Relations Director) at 646-3333 with any questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.