MATH 2009 Sophomore Seminar

COURSE INFORMATION
https://sites.google.com/a/westga.edu/jkang/teaching/math-2009

Pre-requisites: MATH 1112 or MATH 1113 (minimum grade C)

Class Hours & Classroom(s): Thur 02:00 pm - 02:50 pm, Anthropology Building 7

Instructor: Dr. Jeong-Hyun Kang

E-mail Address: jkang@westga.edu (Best way to contact me!)

Office: Boyd 328

Office Hours: Tue 12-12:30 & 2-3:30; Thu 12;12:30 & 3-5:30

Course Website: https://sites.google.com/a/westga.edu/jkang/teaching/math-2009 (This is NOT CourseDen but through my UWG website.)

Textbook: No textbook

Course Topics: Problem solving, Applications and importance of mathematics, Sub-areas of mathematics and their interconnectedness, Careers in mathematics and how to prepare them

Learning outcomes: The student will be able to

- Identify the major areas of mathematics
- Communicate various mathematical topics and ideas in written and oral form
- Identify the different career tracks in the mathematical sciences
- Describe the various inter-relations among the broad areas of mathematics, and between mathematics and other disciplines
- Identify strategies for problem solving, and apply basic mathematical techniques to solve specific elementary mathematical problems
- Last but not least, understand math fundamentals such as (i) basic algebra operations with abstract letters or (ii) logical writing that reflects logical thinking

Attendance Policy: Your attendance will be recorded every class and take into an account toward your final grade. Missing two classes will NOT affect your attendance points. (Of course, missing class on the exam day will affect your exam point.)

``Attendance'' means that you participate in all the class activities. Showing up late or leaving early, which result in missing out class activities, without proper excuse, will reduce your attendance point of the day by half.
**Problem Solving:** In every class, one or two elementary mathematical problems will be provided, then problem solving strategies will be discussed. Each student will demonstrate writing a solution logically.

**Presentation:** Every student will give a 10-minute presentation, followed by a possible 2-min Q&A session.

- **Topics and contents:**
  
  a. A math job that you find interesting in any math career site, including http://weusemath.org/ or http://www.beanactuary.org/jobs/. Ideally, it would be a job you'd like to apply for, if the timing were right, but if you don't find a job listing you'd actually want to pursue, find one that is at least close to your interests. Your presentation will have to convey
     i. the name of the profession
     ii. why the job is interesting to you
     iii. what math subjects are required for the profession
     iv. how the math is used in the profession
     v. any other interesting story to share if there is any.
  
  b. A solution of a mathematical problem that will be provided in our course webpage. Your presentation will have to
     i. remind the question to the audience
     ii. identify strategies for problem solving
     iii. explain how to apply basic mathematical techniques to solve the problem
     iv. attempt to make the audience understood
     v. present the solution that is logically written

- Presentation will take place in the beginning of the classes. Speakers of the day are expected to be ready to start their presentations by turning on the computer and setting up the connection to the projector instead of me doing for them.

- You are expected to prepare a Power Point or any reasonable means for your talk.

- You will receive an invitation email with a link where you can reserve a slot online by Jan. 14. It will be on a first come, first served basis. There will be two slots available per day. **The link will be closed at 5pm, Monday, January 21.**

- If you miss your reserved spot for any reason, another opportunity will be given if any other slot is available during regular class hours. If no slot is available during regular class hours, you will have to do only with me during my office hours hence will miss your chance to receive "scores" from the classmates. **See Grading Policies below.**
**Homework:** Homework may be assigned after class through the course webpage. It is your responsibility to check the course webpage to be aware of homework. Although it will **not** be collected or graded, you are strongly encouraged to do them in order to prepare for exams.

**Exam:** There will be one proctored exam on Thursday 4/25

- The exams will be based on mathematics presented or assigned by me; the concrete materials will be specified on the course webpage over the semester.

- If you have a **provable excuse** (such as an official university field trip or doctor's note) and **notify me well in advance** (at least one week earlier), then missed hour exams may be made up **prior** to the actual test date. Somebody's wedding or gathering with a boy/girl friend after several months are NOT appropriate excuses.

- If you miss your chance to take the exam before or on the actual exam hours, an opportunity may be given at a later time with reduced weight of 70% of the scores attained.

**Grading Policy:**

- Grading Scale:
  - Attendance 50pts
  - Presentation 30pts (15pts will be determined by me, and 15pts by the classmates; **See a separate Feedback Sheet.**)
  - Exam 20pts
  - Extra credit points at my discretion depending on the class participations.
  - 100 points total

- Letter Grade: >= 90% A; >=80% B, >=70% C; >=60% D; below 60% F

- A final answer without showing procedure won't earn any credit in exams. Showing appropriate steps of your work matters!

  - **No calculator during the exam.**

  - No curve!

**Other Class Policies:**

- Sections covered, homework problems, and announcement of quizzes will be posted on the Class-Log of the course website after every class. Hence, it is essential for you to check the course webpage almost everyday.

- Email communications regarding the course should be done only in the domain of westga.edu.
Classroom Behavior: You are expected not to disturb your classmate's learning.

It will be considered as disturbing the class if you make frequent bathroom trips, answer the phone, being late for class or leaving early noticeably often without proper excuse. In a word, be respectful for the class.

University Policies: Please carefully review the following information at https://www.westga.edu/UWGSSyllabusPolicies/ or https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php. It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.