

Department: MATH

Course No.: 202W

Title: Pedagogical Seminar

Credits: 1

Contact: Jeffrey Tollefson

WQ: W

Catalog Copy: MATH202W. Pedagogical Seminar. Either Semester. One credit. Co-requisite: Concurrent registration in Math 210. Open to sophomores

Weekly seminars and short essays reflecting on the learning experiences and content of MATH 210.

Course Information: The student will attend 15 seminars per semester, and will write a short one-page essay reflecting on the mathematics and his pedagogical experiences in his section of Math 210 during the week. The student will write a well-revised comprehensive paper on this topic, including a discussion of the positive and negative experiences of learning. The student will also concentrate on one topic from the course, and using Internet and Library resources, discuss alternate ways of teaching (and learning) this topic.

W Criteria: 1. The writing assignments will enhance learning by allowing students to compare and contrast their pedagogical experiences in their varied sections of math 210 for the week. The result of this discussions would then be written up in at least one page, including a discussion of what methods might have been more effective. By the end of the semester, the student would be expected to incorporate these summaries into a coherent 15-page (minimum) essay describing the pedagogical experience of the the class. As a separate topic, each student would be expected to research a variety of calculus textbooks on a given topic for the course and to discuss which of the varied presentations would have been most effective for the student's learning experience. This project would be at least an additional three pages.

The writing component of this course will constitute 80% of the course grade. Failure to pass the writing component results in failure of the course. This will be stated in the syllabus.

2. At the beginning of the semester, formal in-class writing instructions will be given. The instructor will provide written commentaries on the assignments on a weekly basis and will meet with students to discuss these if requested.

3. Each writing assignment will be reviewed, and comments and suggestions for improvement provided. Each assignment will be graded for content, organization, structure, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and clarity. The student will be required to revise the first 15-page draft according to instructor comments and resubmit as the final 15-page paper. The student will

submit the first 15-page draft along with the final draft so that the instructor can easily evaluate how well the student has incorporated comments and suggested changes.