

Syllabus for Mathematics 396 Winter 2008

Professor: Dr. Cheryl Beaver
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CLASS MEETS 12-12:50 p.m. MF AA 104 12-1:50 p.m. W in AA 104
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Dr. C. Beaver's **OFFICE HOURS & SCHEDULE**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 - 11		Office			Office
11 – 12	MTH 365	Office	MTH 365		MTH 365
12 – 1	MTH 396		MTH 396		MTH 396
1 – 2					
2 – 3					
3 – 4	Office		Office		
4:30 – 6:20	MTH 492/592		MTH 492/592		

Office hours are for you, so please do come to introduce yourself in more detail to me and feel free to drop by for help. At times other than my listed office hours you are welcome and encouraged to call or email me with questions about the course. If you have direct scheduling conflicts with my office hours and would like further help, please let me know.

PREREQUISITES

Mathematics 211, 212, and 213 with a grade of C- or better.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Text: “Problem Solving Strategies Crossing the River with Dogs”, Second Edition, Ken Johnson and Ted Herr

Course pack at the University Bookstore on the Oregon Scoring Guide and in-class activities materials.

COURSE STRUCTURE: Class will be a mix of exploration and reflection, activities and problem solving sessions. Please bring your text and course packs to class **every day**.

COURSE CONTENT: This course is designed for students planning to be elementary or middle school teachers. Our goals for this term are to:

- improve problem solving skills by building upon and extending knowledge acquired in the foundational sequence
- learn to write non-routine problems that introduce, enhance or illustrate important mathematical themes or ideas
- become proficient in using the state problem solving scoring guide
- use the problems of the week (POW) environment at the Math Forum Resource (<http://www.mathforum.org/pow>) to experience reading, replying, and evaluating young problem solvers' solutions

ATTENDANCE: Daily attendance is required for your success in this course. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate for notes on the material that you have missed. I will not have discussion notes available if you have missed class, nor will I repeat my discussion during office hours.

READING THE TEXT: You will be expected to carefully and completely read each chapter in your textbook. It is a good idea to briefly read the assigned section before class and then to carefully read the section before you start your homework. I encourage you to ask questions about the examples presented in the book. You may ask questions about the text both in class and during office hours.

HOMEWORK: There will be a variety of homework assignments given in this course. There will be five main categories of homework assignments:

Text Problems, Journals, Problems of the Week (POWs), In-class Activities, Portfolio Problems

TEXT PROBLEMS HOMEWORK

- Homework from our textbook will be assigned daily. These homework assignments will not be assessed directly but by a peer review process on **Wednesdays**. Everybody will be given the task of checking whether all the problems assigned the previous week have been completed by a classmate and everybody will grade one problem in more detail (please see the peer grading cover sheet in your activities course pack for more detail).
- Exams will be based on homework problems and in-class activities.
- You will find that if you do not do all of your homework, you will not succeed in learning the material covered in this course.
- Every once and again, I will check random homework problems to find out how everybody is progressing.

JOURNAL HOMEWORK: Journal assignments will be roughly bi-weekly. Please see the Journal and Portfolio Assignment sheet for more detail.

PROBLEMS OF THE WEEK (POWs): As you begin your path as teachers, we will focus on problem solving skills. During the first portion of the course, you will be assigned weekly special problems to help you focus on clear and precise explanations. More detailed information is provided on the POW Assignments sheet.

PORTFOLIO PROBLEMS: During the first portion of the course, each week, you will be asked to write a problem geared toward a student in grades 5 - 8. More detailed information is provided on the Journal and Portfolio Assignments sheet.

COURSE NOTEBOOK: All of your course materials, as described below, are required to be carefully filed in your course notebook. For your notebook please use a large 3 ring binder divided into the following, clearly marked, sections:

- Class Notes and Activities
- Text Homework
- Journal Assignments
- Problems of the Week
- Exams

At the end of the term your notebook will be collected and I will review the materials in your course notebook.

COURSE GRADING

- Attendance and in-class participation are required. Each day your participation in class will be noted.
- Documented (written) excuses for illness, etc. will be accepted for missed classes and/or late work. Notification must be prompt and in advance.
- All of your class, homework activities and exams will count as part of your grade with the following breakdown, out of a total of 1000 points:

Exams (Midterm and Final 120&125 pts.)	245 pts.
POWs	5x25 pts=125 pts.
Journal Assignments	4x15 pts = 60 pts.
Text Problems Homework	6x25pts= 150 pts.
Attendance and Participation	60 pts. (~ 2 pts./class)
Portfolio Problems	5x25 pts=125 pts.
Math Forum Mentoring	200 pts.
Other	35 pts.

EXAMS: There will be one mid-term exam in this course and one final. All exams are timed, and the Final Exam is an in-class group final. Make-up or early exams will only be given in the case of a documented emergency or a documented university sanctioned absence from class. Prior notification and my agreement are required.

APPROPRIATE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are ultimately responsible for your own attendance and performance. Disruptive classroom behavior of any kind, such as talking during lecture or consistently coming to class late etc., is not appropriate. Proscribed Conduct for all students is described in the University Catalog. Any student found cheating on an exam or copying from another student's exam paper will receive a zero score on that exam.

LATE WORK POLICY

Your work is due by 4:30 p.m. on the due date. All due items may be turned in, unexcused, 1 class day late for 75% credit or 2 class days late for 50% credit. There will be NO credit for assignments more than 2 class days late. Any item turned in after 4:30p.m. on a due date will be considered late. There are no exceptions!

LEARNING DISABILITIES

If you have a documented learning disability, please talk to me during **the first few days of class**, I will be more than happy to accommodate you in any way that I can. If you have a documented disability which requires any academic accommodations, you must go to the Office of Disability Services (ODS) for appropriate coordination of your accommodations. You can drop by APSC 405 or contact ODS at (503) 838-8250 (V,TTY) to schedule an appointment.

INCOMPLETE POLICY

If you are passing this course and have a documented reason for not being able to complete the course, I may be able to grant you an incomplete. You must obtain my agreement if you wish to have a grade of incomplete recorded.

STANDARD GRADING SCALE FOR THIS COURSE (Total % for the course, usual rounding rules apply)

%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade
93 – 100	A	90 – 92	A-	87 – 89	B+	83 – 86	B	80 – 82	B-
%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade
77 – 79	C+	73 – 76	C	70 – 72	C-	60 – 69	D	Below 60	F