

MAE 447 Course Outline Spring 2004

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Office Hours:

MAE 447 is a one credit writing course required for the Undergraduate Mathematics Education Program.

THERE IS NO TIME OR PLACE FOR MEETING LISTED IN THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT COURSE SCHEDULE. YOU MUST CONTACT ME, BY FEBRUARY 6, AT THE e-MAIL ADDRESS ABOVE, TELLING ME YOUR CLASS AND WORK SCHEDULE, SO THAT I CAN SCHEDULE OUR MEETING TIME TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

Basic Requirements.

You are required to choose a topic in a timely fashion.

You are required to hand in one 1-2 page paper telling about the library based research material you have found pertaining to your topic. You must hand in both a first and a final draft.

You are required to hand in one 1-2 page paper telling about the web based research material you have found pertaining to your topic. You must hand in both a first and a final draft.

You are required to hand in a newspaper or magazine clipping relevant to mathematics education.

You are required to hand in both a first and final draft of an 8-10 page research paper on your topic.

You are required to attend class every week; you may miss at most 5 classes.

Grading Structure.

The grading structure for this course is based on 100 points, as follows.

1. You must have an acceptable topic by 02/13/04; note that your first choice might turn out not to be acceptable: **4 points** if submitted on time; **you lose 1/2 point for each school day it is late.**
2. The first draft of the library resource paper must be handed in by 02/27/04: **4 points** if handed in on time; **you lose 1/2 point for each school day it is late.**
3. The first draft of the web resource paper must be handed in by 02/27/04: **4 points** if handed in on time; **you lose 1/2 point for each school day it is late.**
4. The final draft of the library resource paper must be handed in by 03/12/04: **1 point** for timeliness; **4 points** for appropriateness of content; **5 points** for language usage, logic, grammar, etc.
5. The final draft of the web resource paper must be handed in by 03/12/04: **1 point** for timeliness; **4 points** for appropriateness of content; **5 points** for language usage, logic, grammar, etc.

6. The newspaper or magazine clipping must be handed in by 03/19/04: **4 points**. This must be an actual clipping from a newspaper or magazine, not a printout of a web page.
7. The first draft of the final 8-10 page paper must be handed in by 04/23/04: **21 points** for timeliness; you lose 3 points for each school day it is late.
8. The final draft of the final paper must be handed in by 05/07/04 (*If it is not handed in on time, your final grade will be either I, if you have a legitimate excuse, or F*): **24 points** for overall logical structure, and connections between resource material and conclusions; **10 points** for grammatically correct writing; **2 points** for format.
9. You are required to attend at least 7 classes; you gain 1 point for each class attended, provided you participate in the class, for a total of **7 points**.

Course Outline

1. Select a topic, and either send the instructor an e-mail with your suggested topic, or bring it to class.
2. (You can do 3, 4 and 5 in any order) After your topic has been approved, locate at least two web sites concerned with mathematics education, and write a 1- 2 page paper, with references to the websites, describing what information relevant to your topic you have found on these web sites, and what other information and/or misinformation you found. One of these web sites should be the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) website. The first draft of this paper must be submitted electronically, by the above due date, to the above e-mail address.
3. (You can do 3, 4 and 5 in any order) Find at least two books or journal articles in the library that are relevant to your topic, and write a 1 - 2 page article, with references, describing what you found and how you will use it. You might also mention other potentially useful sources of information that you uncovered. The first draft of this paper must be submitted electronically to the above e-mail address by the above due date.
4. (You can do 3, 4 and 5 in any order) Find at least one article in a current newspaper or general news magazine relevant to mathematics education. Clip it, and bring it to your weekly meeting. (It must be an actual newspaper clipping, not a printout from a web page.)
5. Write a first draft of an eight to ten page research paper, using standard margins and double spaced, on your topic. This first draft must have your name on it, and must have page numbers on it. You can submit it either in hard copy or electronically. **You must review this first draft with the instructor before you write your final draft.**
6. Write the final draft of your paper after it has been reviewed. It must be submitted by the last day of classes.

Style and References:

Your style and references should conform to one of the two standard styles used in mathematics education; these can be found in the following two references:

Chicago Manual of Style
University of Chicago Press
Chicago, 1993

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association
Fifth Edition
American Psychological Association, 2001

Your references for the paper can include primary and secondary research. Examples of secondary research would include printed books, educational publications, articles in newspapers or articles from periodicals and recent journals. You must use at least two library sources; that is sources other than the web, TV, newspapers, or non-professional periodicals. You should cite your sources using one of the two styles listed above.

Some Possible Topics

Alternative Education: Helping the low achiever succeed in mathematics.

Assessing mathematics achievement

Managing the mathematics classroom

Maintaining discipline in an unpopular subject

How to teach problem solving

Working in groups; homogeneous vs. heterogeneous groupings

Do uniform exams stifle creativity

Teaching styles vs. learning styles: does everyone learn the same way?

Implementing State Standards in the Math Curriculum

Coping with the low achiever - identifying the problem(s)

Math anxiety

Coping with the high achiever - enrichment

At what point should students be permitted to use calculators?

At what point should students be encouraged to use calculators?

At what point should students be required to use graphing calculators?

The use and misuse of graphing calculators

Student attitudes towards Mathematics and Mathematicians

Study Skills for Mathematics Students

Mathematics Education in other cultures

Women in Mathematics

NOTE: If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work, I would urge that you contact the staff in the Disabled Student Services office (DSS), Room 133 Humanities, 632-6748/TDD. DSS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation of disability is confidential. Note that we cannot make special arrangements for students with disabilities except for those determined by DSS.