

Contemporary Math/Stat Seminar

Math/Stat 150-101

MW 1:25-2:15, ILB 350

Instructor: Prof. Josh Barnard

Office: ILB 306

Phone: 460-6755

Office Hours: MW 9:30-10:15; MR 1:30-2:30

Course webpage:

Email: jbarnard@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

www.southalabama.edu/mathstat/personal_pages/jbarnard/F08-150/

Textbook: *The Heart of Mathematics: An invitation to effective thinking*, 2nd edition, by E. D. Burger & M. Starbird, Key College Publications (2004).

Course Description: This course gives an overview of modern mathematics and statistics from the point of view of the practitioners. The course is designed for majors in mathematics and statistics at all levels as well as those students who are considering mathematics or statistics as a major or minor area of study. Topics usually included are elements of geometry, algebra, analysis, methods of statistical inference, the role of the computer in analytical sciences; these topics vary from semester to semester.

Announcements and Handouts: The course webpage has an announcement section and a handout section. Both of these should be checked regularly, and you are responsible for any information found there. In particular, the requirements and policies for this course may be modified as circumstances dictate; such changes will be provided to students in class and noted on the webpage.

Schedule: A course schedule is posted online, and will be updated as the semester progresses. You should read the indicated sections of the book (or handouts, as appropriate) before the relevant class. You should also read through it again before beginning work on the homework, which is also posted on the schedule.

Homework: Homework problems will be assigned each week in class, and also posted online. It will be collected the following week at the beginning of class. You are welcome to work together on the homework and ask me for hints, but you should write up each assignment yourself.

Presentations: Each student will give at least two presentations throughout the semester on topics selected from the textbook or from some mathematical article. Details will be discussed in class.

Grading: Grades will be determined according to the following:

Attendance — 50%; Presentations — 30%; Homework — 20%

Policies: Calculators are not required for this course. If you have any questions or problems, you are encouraged to come by my office during office hours, or make an appointment to come by some other time. Email is the best way to contact me. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from the Office of Special Student Services. This office is directed by Ms. Bernita Pulmas and is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212. Students are assumed to be familiar with the current Academic Misconduct Code, to which we will strictly adhere.