

MATH 215
syllabus
Fall, 2016

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Office Hours: MWF 1:30 - 3:30, TR 1:30 - 4:30 or by appointment
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Course

This is a course on technical oral communication. This is an essential skill for success in any career you may have after Denison. Although you will be given useful council, feedback and a grading rubric, most of the learning in this class will come from “doing”. You will be required to complete several different communication tasks and learn through significant critical reflection and repetition.

Requirements

The main talks are outlined in the following schedule.

1. September 5th **Overview of class and icebreaker** We will discuss the syllabus and everyone will give a three minute (ungraded) “Something you wouldn’t know about me” talk.
2. September 12th **Advice and Workshop I** Discussion, advice and literature on giving a technical talk, discussion of grading rubrics, and workshopping with your partner on First Paired Talk.
3. September 19th **First Paired Talk, Part I.** You and a partner will give a 20 minute talk on an abstract mathematical result (see resources below). The talk will be filmed
4. September 26th **First Paired Talk, Part II** Finishing up talks
5. October 3rd **Workshop II** You will watch your first talk with your partner and make corrections
6. October 10th **Repeat of First Paired Talk Part I** You will repeat your new and improved Paired Talk
7. October 17th **Repeat of First Paired Talk Part I** Finishing repeat Paired Talks
8. October 24th **Workshop III** Workshop preparing for Interrupted talk
9. October 31st **Interrupted Talk I** You will give an individual filmed 15 minute talk on an applied mathematical method (see resources below). Professors sitting in will interrupt your talk 2-3 times to ask a question.
10. November 7th **Interrupted Talk II** Continuing Interrupted Talks
11. November 14th **Interrupted Talk III** Finishing Interrupted Talks
12. November 28th **Workshop IV** You will huddle in a group of three students to view your individual Interrupted Talks and give feedback to each other. **You will submit written critiques of the other two students,** due in one week.
13. December 5th **Mock Interviews I.** You will be interviewed for a fictitious job.
14. December 12th **Mock Interviews II** Continuing with Mock Interviews
15. December 21st **Repeat Interrupted Talk** You will arrange a time to film a repeat of your Interrupted Talk without interruptions but addressing interrupted questions. This is due on December 21st by midnight.

In addition you will have to attend ALL department talks and **submit a written one page critique of two of them.** These are graded for effort, but you must meet the standard a basic rubric that I will provide beforehand.

Resources and more information

- For the Paired Talk, I put several copies of *The Heart of Mathematics* by Burger and Starbird on closed reserve in the Library. I also recommend *The Hundred Greatest Theorems* website at <http://pirate.shu.edu/kahlnath/Top100.html>. Other sources are fine but need approval.
- For the Interrupted Talk, I put (1) several copies of *A First Course in Mathematical Modeling* by Giordano, Fox, and Horton, on closed reserve in the Library as well as (2) several introductory statistics books.
- On Workshop days I will float around to each group and give oral feedback
- I will also give email feedback to all talks
- The Mock Interviews will feature technical questions and “getting to know you” questions. The interviewer will give you feedback. The grade is for effort, but you must meet the standard of a basic rubric that I will provide

Grade Distribution

- First Paired Talk (10 %)
- Repeat of First Paired Talk (25 %)
- Interrupted Talk (10 %)
- Repeat Interrupted Talk (25 %)
- Mock Interviews (10 % - effort only but must meet basic standard of provided rubric)
- Two one page critiques of department talks (5 % each - effort only but must meet basic standard of provided rubric)
- One page critiques of other students from Workshop IV (10 % - effort only but must meet basic standard of provided rubric)

Late Work

Late work will receive a 20 % point penalty per day late unless there is a written note (such as a note from Whistler) that verifies a VERY strong excuse (such as illness or important sports team events). Late quizzes and homework are not accepted at all without a similar excuse.

Office Hours

Please come to office hours so I can help you and get to know you!

Disabilities

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. I rely on the Academic Support and Enrichment Center in 104 Doane to verify the need for reasonable accommodations based on documentation on file in their office.

Academic Integrity

The students and faculty of Denison University and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science are committed to academic integrity and will not tolerate any violation of this principle. Academic honesty, the cornerstone of teaching and learning, lays the foundation for lifelong integrity.

Academic dishonesty is, in most cases, intellectual theft. It includes, but is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for evaluation. This standard applies to all work ranging from daily homework assignments to major exams. Students must clearly cite any sources consulted, not only for quoted phrases but also for ideas and information that are not common knowledge. Neither ignorance nor carelessness is an acceptable

defense in cases of plagiarism. It is the students' responsibility to follow the appropriate format for citations.

Proposed and developed by Denison students, passed unanimously by DCGA and Denison's faculty, the Code of Academic Integrity requires that instructors notify the Associate Provost of cases of academic dishonesty, and it requires that cases be heard by the Academic Integrity Board. Further, the code makes students responsible for promoting a culture of integrity on campus and acting in instances in which integrity is violated.

For further information about the Code of Academic Integrity see <http://www.denison.edu/about/integrity.html>