

MATH 1481—Spring 2015

TR 5:30 - 6:55 p.m., DH 107

Instructor: Richard Snyder

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Prerequisites: MATH 1480

Goals: This course is a *mathematics* course focusing on elementary school mathematics. The main goal is to acquire a solid knowledge of that material. Secondly, we shall address how to present the material simply and clearly for students, and what errors such students are likely to make in the process of their understanding.

Texts:

1. *Elementary Mathematics for Teachers* (EMT), by Thomas H. Parker & Scott J. Baldridge.
2. *Elementary Geometry for Teachers* (EGT), by the same authors as above.
3. *New Elementary Mathematics I, Syllabus D* (NEM1)
4. *Primary Mathematics textbooks* (PM) 3A, 3B, 4A, 5A, 5B, 6B.

Other Materials: For the coursework in elementary geometry you will need a ruler, protractor, and compass (for drawing circles). You may also use a regular scientific calculator (optional). These can be used on exams (graphing calculators and cell phones are prohibited, however).

Expectations: Classes will be primarily lectures. We will also occasionally break into small groups and work on problems to be presented in class. You are expected to take notes, participate in class activities, and to ask questions about what you do not understand. We will cover, approximately, the following material:

EMT: Chapter 7, Chapter 8, most of Chapter 9.

EGT: Chapters 1 – 3, Chapter 5, most of Chapter 8, and selected topics from Chapters 9 – 10.

Grading Policy: There will be 3 in-class exams, a final exam, and weekly homework assignments. Missed exams (and homework) will count as 0 points. No make-up exams will be given. Instead, I will drop your lowest exam score. Additionally, there will be no make-up homework assignments, but I will drop your lowest two homework scores.

Grade Breakdown:

40% 3 in-class exams
30% comprehensive final exam
30% homework

Plus/minus grades will be used; grading scale to be determined.

Homework: This is the most important component of any mathematics course, and this course is no exception. In order to do well you will have to spend time practicing. Each week I will assign homework pertaining to the sections covered during that week. It will be due the following Thursday. You are allowed to discuss homework problems with your classmates, but this does not mean you may copy their solutions (or allow someone to copy from you). Additionally, if you are having trouble with particular problems, do not hesitate to ask me or utilize the department's Math Learning Center (in DH 143).

* I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus if necessary due to time constraints or other unforeseen circumstances.