Instructor: Dr. Brian K. Miceli

Course URL: http://trinity.edu/bmiceli

All of the instructor’s contact information and office hours can be found at the above URL. In addition, all information which is pertinent to this course, including a copy of this syllabus and all information regarding homework assignments and the Putnam Exam, can be found at the above web page by following the proper links. There will also be a link to the course web page from Blackboard.

Time and Place: W 3:55 PM - 5:10 PM, Marrs McLean Science Building (MMS), Room 110

Office Hours: For the exact times of office hours, consult the Course URL. I will also be available by appointment.

Textbook: There will be no textbook for this course.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course, although a passing grade in Math 1307/1311 is recommended.

Course Content: This will first and foremost be a course in problem solving and communication. The focus of this course will be on having fun and using techniques acquired in other math courses to solve interesting problems.

Expectations: The workload for this course will be appropriate for a one-credit course, although I would be more than happy to oblige students who are interested in doing extra work for this course outside of the weekly assignments.

Homework & Presentations: Homework will be assigned each week - usually between one and three problems - and homework sets will often have themes. Throughout the semester students will be asked to present their solutions to homework problems at the board. This is meant to be used as a way to highlight different solutions to problems and not as a method of academic torture.

Quizzes: There will be weekly quizzes, each out of 10 points, and the lowest two (2) scores will be dropped. Quizzes cannot be made up if they are missed. The purpose of these quizzes is to see different types of problems while working on the writing aspect of solutions.

Putnam Exam Attendance: Students enrolled in this course are expected to attend both sessions of the Putnam Exam for the full amount of time. Failing to do so without prior consent from the instructor will result in a course grade of “F”.

Class Attendance: While attendance is not mandatory, it is highly encouraged, and excessive absences should be explained to the instructor.
Grades: Your overall score in the course will be based upon your scores on the homework and presentations, in-class quizzes, and attendance at the Putnam exam. The point values are as follows:

Homework & Pres.: 20%
Quizzes: 20%
Putnam Exam: 60%

Your letter grade will be determined by your overall percentage at the semester’s end, and the class grades will be curved.

Academic Integrity: All students are covered by a policy that prohibits dishonesty in academic work. The Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) covers all students who entered Trinity before the fall of 2004. The Academic Honor Code covers all those who entered the fall of 2004 or later. The Integrity Policy and the Honor Code share many features: each asserts that the academic community is based on honesty and trust; each contains the same violations; each provides for a procedure to determine if a violation has occurred and what the punishment will be; each provides for an appeal process. The main difference is that the faculty implements the AIP while the Honor Code is implemented by the Academic Honor Council. Under the Integrity Policy, the faculty member determines whether a violation has occurred as well as the punishment for the violation (if any) within certain guidelines. Under the Honor Code, a faculty member will (or a student may) report an alleged violation to the Academic Honor Council. It is the task of the Council to investigate, adjudicate, and assign a punishment within certain guidelines if a violation has been verified. Students who are under the Honor Code are required to pledge all written work that is submitted for a grade: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this work” and their signature. The pledge may be abbreviated “pledged” with a signature.

Disability Services for Students: If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations in this class, please speak with the instructor privately early in the semester so that he may be prepared to meet your needs. If you have not already registered with Disability Services for Students, contact the office at 999-7411. You must be registered with DSS before he can provide accommodations.

One Last Note: There will be NO class the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.