

Math 1190 - Putnam Exam Seminar

Fall 2009

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.

Time and Place: MW 2:30 PM - 3:20 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 at the end of each week. This will usually be one or two problems to get geared up for what we will discuss on Mondays. Once Monday rolls around, I will ask someone to present on the board what they have for the problem. This is meant to be used as a way to highlight different solutions to problems as well as to introduce new methods and topics and not as a method of academic torture.

Quizzes: There will be a quiz every Wednesday. The purpose of these quizzes is to see different types of problems while working on the writing aspect of solutions. Quizzes will be returned on the following Monday. Every quiz is out of 10 points, and students may drop their lowest quiz score at the end of the semester.

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. 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 week of Thanksgiving.