

Math 1190
Putnam Seminar

Fall 2019
Dr. Ryan C. Daileda

Course URL: <http://ramanujan.math.trinity.edu/rdaileda/putnam>

Office Hours and Contact Information: Consult the course web page.

Course Content: This will first and foremost be a course in mathematical problem solving and written communication. We will focus on the mathematical techniques specifically necessary for the annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition (for further information on the exam consult the course web site). The material we cover will be wide-ranging, thought-provoking, and hopefully a little bit fun, too.

Homework: Homework will be assigned every Thursday. Assignments will take the form of “mini exams” designed to model the actual Putnam Competition itself. You will be exposed to a variety of types of problems and will be graded more on the quality of your mathematical exposition than on the actual number of problems you are able to solve. Each assignment will carry equal weight toward the homework component of your grade.

Attendance: In addition to regular class attendance, you are expected to attend both sessions of the Putnam Exam, which will be held on the first Saturday in December. Unexcused class absences will count against the attendance component of your grade, and failure to attend the Putnam Competition will result in a grade of F.

Grades: 40% of your overall score in the course will be based on homework, 20% on class attendance, and 40% on your attendance at the Putnam Competition. As noted above, failure to attend the Putnam Competition will result in a grade of F.

Expectations: Each student is expected to spend at least two hours outside of class working on homework assignments. I also expect each student to do their best to maintain a positive attitude throughout the semester. In order to prepare you for the level of difficulty of the Putnam Competition many of the problems we will see will be quite challenging. This should not be seen as some sort of academic punishment, but rather as a chance to hone your problem solving skills.

Academic Integrity: All students are covered by the Trinity University Honor Code which 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 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.

The specifics of the Honor Code, its underlying philosophy, and the norms for sanctioning can all be found on the Academic Honor Council website, accessed through the Trinity Homepage:

<https://inside.trinity.edu/academics/academic-honor-code>

Special Needs: If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations in this class, please speak with me privately early in the semester so I may be prepared to meet your needs. If you have not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact the office at 999-7411 or SAS@trinity.edu. You must be registered with SAS before I can provide accommodations.