
Senior Colloquium

Math 400 Fall 2009
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Fowler 310 T 1:30pm - 2:55pm
<http://faculty.oxy.edu/ron/math/400/09/>

INSTRUCTOR Ron Buckmire ~ Fowler 313 ~ x2536 ~ ron@oxy.edu ~ **MadProfessah**

WEBSITE The official syllabus for this course is at <http://faculty.oxy.edu/ron/math/400/09/>

OFFICE HOURS I am almost always in my office (Fowler 313) until at least 5pm. My official office hours for Fall 2009 are **MTWRF 1:30-2:30pm** and TR 3-4:30pm.

I am readily accessible by e-mail at ron@oxy.edu and by phone at **323-259-2536** and AIM at **ProfBuckmire** or **MadProfessah** (add me to your buddylist!) If you need to see me at a time not specified here, then contact me and make an appointment and I'll be happy to meet with you then. If you don't interact with me on a 1-to-1 basis then you really aren't getting your (tuition) money's worth!

CLASSROOM We will meet in Fowler 310, Tuesdays from 1:30pm-2:55pm.

TEXTBOOK No Required Text.

PURPOSE OF THE CLASS The purpose of Math 400 is to provide a space for us to work together in moving each of your individual comprehensive projects forward. The grade you receive in Math 400 will be reflective of the quality of your individual comprehensive project. However, a small component of the final grade is based on maintaining progress along the way as we regularly meet together. Each of you will choose and pursue an individual project in mathematics to satisfy the project requirement of the comprehensives. By the end of this semester, you should have made substantial progress toward a complete draft of your project paper. You will also have had many opportunities to discuss and get feedback on your work as it develops in our regular meetings together.

FORMAT OF THE CLASS We will meet weekly at a time to be determined for the first few weeks. You should use this time in your schedule to meet regularly with your assigned Initial Comps Advisor. You should also feel free to contact each other for support, questions, etc. at any time. You can reach all of you and me simultaneously by emailing math400-L@oxy.edu.

Fowler 306 is set up for mathematics majors (particular seniors in Math 400) to relax, study, and work together

GRADING At the end of the Fall 2009 semester, you will receive a grade of CIP (Course In Progress). By April 2010, you will receive a letter grade based on the following criteria:

Comps project paper proposal (with outline) 10%

Comps project paper penultimate draft 20%

Comps project paper final draft 20%

Comps project presentation 40%

Adequate progress, attendance and acceptable work through the year 10%

If you have not yet passed the Comps Part 1 exam, you must do so in order to receive a passing grade in Math 400 and **graduate**. You will take the exam with this years juniors during their Math 300 course.

COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT PROPOSAL The Math Department is now requiring that Comps Project proposals to be submitted and approved by the Department in advance. The deadline for the formal Comps Project proposal is Fall Break and should answer the following questions:

- What is the topic of the project?
- What sources have you looked at and how will you use them? (annotated bibliography)
- Why are YOU interested in this particular topic?
- What course work have you done that prepares you for this topic?
- What are the mathematical topics and ideas to be used, discussed and explained in the paper?

The proposal should also include a reasonably clear outline of the entire paper.

TENTATIVE DEADLINES Here are some tentative deadlines

- Early September - picking topic, honing topic, initial mentor assignment made
- End of September - working bibliography
- **By Fall Break (Friday October 16) - Project Proposal (with outline and annotated bibliography) (GRADED)**
- By Thanksgiving (Monday November 23) - first complete paper draft
- **By Last day of Class (Wednesday December 9) – penultimate draft (GRADED)**
- **March 5, 2010 - final draft of paper submitted (GRADED)**
- Before Spring Break (March 8-12, 2010) - talk prepared for review
- Late March - talks presented publicly
- April 19, 2010 - Math 400 Grades and Comps Results due to Registrar