

## COURSE CONTRACT

MAT 194-001

Mathematical Sciences Seminar

Spring 2010

**Instructor** Dr. Andy Long

**Office** ST 328

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**Web Address** [www.nku.edu/~longa/classes/mat194/](http://www.nku.edu/~longa/classes/mat194/)

**Office Hours** MF 1:00-1:50; MWF 11:00-11:50; TR 9:30-11:00. I am also available by appointment, and at random when approached with a smile.

**Time and Place** Class meets in ST 251 from 1:00-1:50 on Wednesdays.

**Attendance Policy** I expect students to attend all classes (there are only 15) as well as attend a number of extracurricular events throughout the semester. Your grade is directly dependent upon your attendance. More than three unexcused absences will result in a Fail for the course. An excused absence is a documented illness, university function or family emergency. I expect the student to be responsible for informing me of any such situation at the earliest possible moment.

**Course Pre/Co-requisites** Open to students who have successfully (C or above) complete MAT 128 or MAT 129 or who are currently enrolled in either of these two courses.

**Course Content** The goal of this one credit Pass/Fail course is to introduce the mathematical disciplines. We will use the web, the library, visiting faculty, students, external guests, each other, and who knows what else to begin to better understand the disciplines of mathematics, mathematics education and statistics.

We will also use the text “50 Mathematical Ideas You Really Need to Know” (Tony Crilly, Quercus Publishing Plc) to enjoy some real mathematics while we’re at it!

As a final project, you will create a poster exposing a mathematical topic of your own choice (to be presented on the day of our final) at a poster session. These might be modelled after the snippets presented in Crilly’s text, or reflect your own personal style.

**Learning Outcome** This class is designed to give the student knowledge of the mathematical sciences in general, and to improve the student’s ability to read, write, and discuss mathematics and statistics.

- Students will improve their ability to read and discuss mathematics and statistics.
- Students will improve their ability to actively listen to mathematics and statistics.
- Students will improve their ability to write about mathematics and statistics.
- Students will have a knowledge of the applications of mathematics and statistics to other disciplines.
- Students will be knowledgeable about the employment opportunities for those in the mathematical sciences.
- Students will be acquainted with a wide variety of specialty areas in the mathematical sciences.

**Course Policy & Evaluation Methods** There will be weekly assignments, of various kinds depending on the topic of the week. There will be some in-class presentations and some in-class work to be handed in. Your grade will also be dependent upon the attendance of a number of out-of-class activities such as:

- Mathematics & Statistics Student Club meetings
- Mathematics & Statistics Major/Minor lunches (twice a semester)
- Kentucky MAA Conference (March 26-27, 2010 - University of Kentucky)
- Mathematical Contest in Modeling (Feb. 18-22)

You will attend six different events (although successfully participating in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling will discharge all six; and attending the MAA Conference will discharge four). Otherwise, you will need to attend six events, and document your presence at each (documentation will consist of a specially prepared page signed by a faculty member).

### **Important Dates**

March 29 – Last day to WITHDRAW without penalty.

March 8-13 – Spring Break

May 5 – 1:00-3:00 Final Exam

**Departmental Syllabus** The Department of Mathematics & Statistics general syllabus also applies to all MAT/STA courses and can be found at <http://www.nku.edu/~math/docs/DepartmentSyllabus.pdf>. Additional information concerning Secondary Education Students is available on the Departmental Syllabus.

**Cell Phones** Please make sure that all cell phones and other electrical devices are turned off upon entering the classroom. Only under very special circumstances will I allow a student to leave a cell phone on in class, but this must be discussed with me prior to class time.

**Honor Policy** Honesty in your academic work will develop into professional integrity. I do not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Any offense will be reported to the proper authorities. I expect you to follow the NKU Honor Code for all work in this class. For more information about the NKU Honor Code see [www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/HonorCode.htm](http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/HonorCode.htm)

**NOTE** Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Office of Disability Services. Please contact the disability service office in University Center Suite 320 or by calling (859) 572-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the disability services office for you to receive reasonable academic accommodations. Visit the disability services website at [www.nku.edu/~disability](http://www.nku.edu/~disability).

**Addendum** Suitable changes may be made to this course contract during the course of the semester.