MA 375 – Communicating Mathematics
Central Kentucky Math Circle Assistant
Spring 2018

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

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Office Location/Hours: 727 POT, office hours by appointment

Official Course Description: A course intended to provide understanding of and experience with contemporary mathematical communication in a modern instructional setting. Primarily intended for, but not restricted to, prospective school and college teachers of mathematics, including students who may intend to enroll in a graduate program and work as a graduate teaching assistant while pursuing an advanced degree. May not be counted as an upper division mathematics course in mathematics degree programs. Lecture, one hour; laboratory, four hours per week. Prerequisite: MA 261 and consent of instructor.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND MEETING LOCATION/TIME

Students in this course serve as assistants in an outreach program the math department runs for high school students. Their primary responsibility is to assist a faculty member or graduate student with problem solving sessions for the participants in the Central Kentucky High School Math Circle.

Student responsibilities are to assist with five Sunday afternoon circle sessions, plus have weekly meetings with the instructor and/or the circle session leaders. Students are expected to read Chapters 1, 3, and 4 from the book *Circle in a Box*. Students are expected to review and assist with editing/proofreading the activity sheets for the math circle sessions. Students are expected to design a lesson plan for a pair of math circle sessions.

The circle sessions for Fall 2017 semester are tentatively scheduled for 2-4pm on the following dates:

Jan 28
Feb 11
Feb 25
March 4
March 25

The weekly meetings with the instructor and/or session leaders will be arranged on an ad hoc basis.

The student learning outcomes for this course are:

- develop pedagogical skills as an assistant in an outreach program for high school students,
- become familiar with the origins and background regarding math circle programs in the United States, and
- gain experience with creating activities for high school math outreach programs.

3. TEXTS

- Circle in a Box, by Sam Vandervelde

4. COURSE GRADES

We will use a standards-based grading system in this course. Each student will be assigned a grade on a scale of 0-4 (4=A, 3=B, 2=C, 1=D, and 0=E) for each of the three learning outcomes listed above. A weighted average of these three values, with each weighted equally, will be used to determine your final course grade, according to the following scheme:

- 3.5 or higher – A
- 2.5-3.49 – B
- 2.0-2.49 – C
- 1.0-1.99 – D
- 0-.99 – E

5. ABSENCES, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, AND DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS:

5.1. **Unexcused Absences.** In the event of an unexcused absence from a meeting, at the discretion of the instructor students will either schedule an alternate meeting time or submit a written report on their work for the prior week.

5.2. **Excused Absences.** Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. Senate Rules 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit "reasonable cause for nonattendance" by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737), http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php.

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than (strictly greater than) 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused) per University policy.

Per Senate Rule 5.2.4.2, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request "appropriate verification" when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

5.3. **Academic Integrity.** Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of

Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: http://www.uky.edu/Ombud. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Senate Rules 6.3.1 (see http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/ for the current set of Senate Rules) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

5.4. **Accommodations due to disability.** If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is:

http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/

5.5. **Updates.** Updates and changes to this document will be emailed directly to students.