Algebra and Technology for Middle School Teachers  
Math 413/413G (3 Hours)  
Spring 2010

Instructor: Hope Marchionda  
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Course Hours: MW 1:50-3:10 (central time) in STH 1101  
Office Hours: Tentatively 8:30-9:00, 10:15-11:15 on MWF and 12:30-1:30 on MW and by appointment

Course Description:  
The content of this course will explore algebraic ideas including patterns, functions, equations, inequalities, linear programming, curve fitting, and practical applications of algebra and technology.

Prerequisites:  
If you are enrolled in the 413 section, the prerequisite is Math 212 or an equivalent course. If you are enrolled in the 413G section, the prerequisite is Math 212 or an equivalent course and graduate standing.  

***Please note*** If you took Math 413 (or its equivalent at another university) as an undergraduate, you cannot repeat the course for graduate credit. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are registered in the correct section and to find out if you can count this course towards your degree and it is your responsibility

Materials:  
- Textbook:  
- Technology:  
  - You must have regular access to the internet for email and Blackboard  
  - Graphing Calculator and Microsoft Excel or comparable software

Attendance:  
Regular attendance is strongly recommended and will be part of your participation grade. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. In the event you must miss a class, YOU are responsible for finding out what work you missed during your absence. Attendance is sometimes taken at odd times of the class period; therefore, if you arrive late or leave early, it is your responsibility to make sure that I correctly mark your attendance for the day. Participation is an important component in the learning process and if you are not in class then you are not participating. Also keep in mind that absenteeism and tardiness are poor qualities for those planning to become a teacher to possess. Furthermore, students with excessive absences do not normally do as well on tests.

Important Dates:  
February 1st – Last day to drop the course without a grade  
March 8th-12th – Spring Break - No class!  
March 19th – Last day to drop the course with a W or change to an audit – there will be no exceptions

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes any form of cheating or plagiarism. The policy is
Instructional Strategies:
Since you are taking an upper-level / graduate mathematics course, you have probably responded well to a lecture-based method of instruction in a mathematics class. In this course, you can expect some lecture, but you will work in groups during each class and participate in class discussions. Since, this course is an interactive video course which is intimidating to some students, it is imperative that you work to feel comfortable sharing your ideas in this course so that you can reap the benefits of a learning environment that is centered on the students.

Assessment / Evaluation:
The undergraduate course grade will be computed as follows: participation 10%, assignments 25%, tests 40%, and final exam 25%.
The graduate course grade will be computed as follows: participation 10%, paper/project 10%, assignments 15%, tests 40%, and final exam 25%

• Participation: Your participation is expected. Participation will be measured by attendance, participation in group work, volunteering to share solutions, and participation in class and Blackboard discussions. Graduate Students will be required to manage assigned discussion board topics. The topic(s) that you will be responsible as well as details for posting will be communicated in a later document.

• Assignments: It will be very advantageous for you to work through every activity that is assigned, even if it is not going to be graded. Since we are not using a traditional textbook, it is recommended that if you are unsure of a topic, you need take the initiative to get extra help from me or another resource. Problems will be assigned on a daily basis and should be taken seriously. You will find that doing the homework and corresponding with classmates or with the instructor will increase your chances for success on exams. Assignments that are turned in for a grade should be written up in a formal manner.

• Paper / Projects: Graduate students will be required to complete 3 to 4 papers/projects. The details of each assignment will be communicated in a separate document.

• Tests: There will be 2 tests throughout the semester that will be announced in advance. The only exceptions will be for students that have written permission from the Office of Student Disability Services. There will be no planned make-up tests and missing a test will result in a zero. Only under the most extenuating circumstances will a make-up test be considered if the instructor is aware of an issue in advance. In these cases the instructor will decide whether to administer a make-up test or count part of the final exam twice.

• Final Exam: A comprehensive final exam will be given at the time that will be announced later in the semester. In all likelihood, it will be given on Monday of finals week around the same time as our class. A grade of at least 50% must be made on the final to pass this course.

Please Note: All grades will be posted on Blackboard. However, class averages will not be calculated via Blackboard because the differences in how undergraduate and graduate students’ grades will be calculated. If you are having trouble determining you class average at any time during the semester, please feel free to let me know!

Grading Scale: 92 – 100% A  84 – 91% B  76 – 83% C  68 – 75% D  0 – 67% F
Please Note: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services (OFSDS), DUC room A201 (Student Success Center). Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodations from OFSDS.