

## Syllabus for Mathematics 396 Fall 2009

MW 12-1:50 p.m. MNB 103

Dr. Cheryl Beaver

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Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8:00		211 Lab			
9:00	211			211	
10:00	Office	Office	Office		Office
11:00					
12:00	396		396		
1:00					
2:00	393		393		
3:00					

**PREREQUISITES:** Mathematics 211, 212, and 213 with a grade of C- or better.

**TEXT:** "Crossing the River with Dogs: Problem Solving for College Students", by Ken Johnson, Ted Herr, and Judy Kysh

**COURSE CONTENT:** This course is designed for students planning to be elementary or middle school teachers. Our goals for this term are to:

- Improve problem solving skills by building upon and extending knowledge acquired in the foundational sequence;
- Learn to write non-routine problems that introduce, enhance or illustrate important mathematical themes or ideas;
- Become proficient in using problem solving rubrics;
- Use the Math Forum Resource to experience reading, replying, and evaluating young problem solvers' solutions.

**ATTENDANCE:** Daily attendance is required for your success in this course. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate for notes on the missed material. If you miss more than one class in a row or miss a scheduled computer lab, please contact your instructor ASAP.

**READING THE TEXT:** It is a good idea to carefully read the section and work out the sample problems before you start your homework. You may ask questions about the text both in class and during office hours.

**HOMEWORK:** There will be five main categories of homework assignments: Text Problems, Journals, Problems of the Week, Portfolio Problems, and Math Forum

**TEXT PROBLEMS HOMEWORK:** The homework assignments will usually not be assessed directly but by a peer review process on their due date. Exams will be based on homework problems and in-class activities. I will check random homework problems to find out how everybody is progressing.

**JOURNAL HOMEWORK:** There will be a few journal assignments throughout the quarter. Please see the Journal Assignment sheet for more details. Journals will be assessed via in-class quizzes.

**PROBLEMS OF THE WEEK (POWs):** POWs are special in-depth problems to help you focus on writing clear and precise mathematical explanations. More detailed information is provided on the POW Assignments sheet.

**PORTFOLIO PROBLEMS:** You will be asked to write word problems geared toward a student in grades 4 – 7 and comment on word problems written by your peers. More detailed information is provided on the Portfolio Assignments sheet.

**MATH FORUM:** In the beginning of this course, we will be working with the Math Forum's Virtual Fieldwork Sequence. In the latter portion of the course, we will work with the Math Forum's Online Mentoring Program. In this portion of the course, you will each mentor school students across the country answering their POW.

**EXAMS:** There will be two mid-term exams in this course and one final. All exams are timed, and the Final Exam is an in-class group final. Make-up or early exams will only be given in the case of a documented emergency or a documented university sanctioned absence from class. Prior notification and my agreement are required.

**COURSE NOTEBOOK:** It is suggested that you file all of your course materials in a notebook with the following categories: Class Notes & Activities; Text HW; Journal Assignments; Portfolio Problems; POWs; Math Forum

**COURSE GRADING:** The points in the course are distributed as follows out of a total of 1200 points. A Score sheet is available on the class webpage if you wish to keep track of your grade.

**STANDARD GRADING SCALE FOR THIS COURSE**

Exams (Midterms and Final)	400 pts.
POWs	3x36 pts=108 pts.
Journal Assignments	2x20 pts = 60 pts.
Text Problems Homework	6x25pts= 150 pts.
Portfolio Problems	3x42 pts=126 pts.
Math Forum Mentoring and Virtual Fieldwork Sequence	406 pts.

**APPROPRIATE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** Disruptive classroom behavior of any kind, such as talking during lecture or consistently coming to class late etc., is not appropriate. Any student found cheating on an exam or copying from another student's exam paper will receive a zero score on that exam.

**LATE WORK POLICY:** Your work is due by 4:30 p.m. on the due date. All due items may be turned in, unexcused, 1 class day late for 75% credit or 2 class days late for 50% credit. There will be NO credit for assignments more than 2 class days late. Any item turned in after 4:30 p.m. on its due date will be considered late.

**CELL PHONE POLICY:** PUT THEM AWAY!! NO TEXTING DURING CLASS

**H1N1 CASES:** If you feel that you have a case of the H1N1 flu, then the CDC encourages you to stay home and not to go see your doctor. If possible, please let me know if you think you will be missing class because of illness. Because I cannot ask you for a doctor's note, you are on the honor system.