

**MATH 396 SYLLABUS: SPRING 2015
ELEMENTARY PROBLEM SOLVING**

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OFFICE HOURS & SCHEDULE Spring 2015					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00	MTH 354 MNB 104		MTH 354 MNB 104	Off Campus	MTH 354 MNB 104
9:00	Office Hours MNB 126		Office Hours MNB 126		Office Hour MNB 126
10:00					
11:00	MTH 396 MNB 103	Math Dept Mtng	MTH 396 MNB 103		
12:00	SP Meeting		SP Meeting		
1:00					
2:00					
3:00					

Please feel free to drop by my office during my office hours for help. You do not need to make an appointment to come to office hours. At times other than my listed office hours you are welcome and encouraged to call or email me with questions about the course. If you have direct scheduling conflicts with my office hours and would like further help, please let me know.

PREREQUISITES

Math 211, 212 & 213; each with a grade of C- or better.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- “Crossing the River with Dogs: Problem Solving for College Students, 2nd Edition” by Ken Johnson, Ted Herr, and Judy Kysh (ISBN: 9780470464731)
 - Available to buy or rent at the bookstore.
- Coursepack: The Math 396 coursepack is available for purchase at the bookstore.

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;
- Become proficient in using problem solving rubrics;
- Use a “Math Buddy” journal interface to experience reading, replying, and evaluating young problem solvers' solutions.

CLASS MOODLE PAGE

The Moodle page for this MTH 396 course will include course resources such as the class schedule, homework assignments and due dates. The grade book feature will also be available for you to view anytime.

CLASS GOOGLE DRIVE

Much of the Math Buddy project will use shared folders in a Math 396 Google Drive. See the class Moodle page for access directions

YOUR STUDENT WOU GMAIL ACCOUNT

All official university and class business and announcements will be directed to your WOU student email account and you will be required to check this email daily during Math Buddy letter writing portions of the term. You must access the course Google Drive folders using your WOU Gmail account. Other options are not available.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required and strictly enforced in Math 396. As described in the “Course Structure” section below, critical activities and experiences will happen during class that cannot be made up.

Late homework, class assignments and make up exams will not be accepted or available unless you have i) a documented emergency filed with the Student Affairs office (see <http://www.wou.edu/student/> and their absence notification form) and my agreement (this is an excused absence), or ii) a documented University Sanctioned Absence from class which you have reviewed with me, and devised a plan for, in advance of the absence.

Missed class grade deductions (% deduction from earned class total %)		
Absence type	Deduction	Requirements
University Sanctioned	-0%	Arranged in advance
	-1% / class day	Not arranged in advance
Illness	-0%	Professor contacted day of illness and work made up to satisfaction of professor per given deadline
	-1% / class day	Professor not contacted day of illness or work not made up to satisfaction of professor per given deadline
Unexcused	-1%	First day
	-2% / class day	After first unexcused day in term

COURSE STRUCTURE

There are two main components in Math 396: The Math Buddies Project and Problem Solving.

MATH BUDDIES PROJECT

WOU Mathematics and Monmouth Elementary School (MES) are partnering for the “Math Buddy” problem solving mentoring project. WOU students will be partnered with children from MES and will learn to respond to and help move forward, children’s problem solving and problem writing skills.

Math Buddy Assignments: Assignments for this project will include scoring student work using the official Oregon State Mathematics Problem Scoring Guide and writing mentor letters to the students.

Math Buddy Participation: Many of our classes will be focused on our Math Buddies Project. It is critical to attend these sessions, as the work completed in those sessions is generally difficult or impossible to be made up. If you must miss due to an emergency, the best thing to do is to contact the professor and, if possible, make up the work immediately. Because this work will directly affect actual school children, if you miss class or deadlines, your work may be reassigned to someone else and you will receive 0 points on any such assignment.

Math Buddy Fun Fair (May 29th): On May 29th, during our regular scheduled class time, we will host a Math Fun Fair. The MES math buddies will come to WOU on a field trip to meet you and attend a “Fun Fair” that you organize. Attendance is mandatory. More information will be provided later in the term.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Many of our classes will be focused on interactive problem solving sessions; please bring your coursepack to class every day. Your participation in class problem solving is crucial and required in this course. All students will be expected to enthusiastically engage in group work and in whole class sharing discussions (including sharing work at the board or document camera). This sharing and discussion cannot be made up.

Text Homework: Corresponding text homework will be assigned after class problem solving sessions. It is a good idea to carefully read the section and work out the sample problems before you start your text homework. You are encouraged to ask questions about the text homework during office hours. Text HW questions may also be addressed briefly in class. Many of the homework problems can be tricky and require in-depth problem solving. See Moodle for Text Assignments and Due dates. You may find it helpful to work on a problem, set it aside for a day and then resume your work.

Text HW Cover Sheets: There are cover sheets for the text homework assignments in your coursepack. Per the directions on the back of the cover sheet, fill out the cover sheet and staple the completed sheet to the front of your homework.

Text HW Late Policy: Unless otherwise noted, all homework is due at the beginning of class. NO late homework will be accepted. Due dates for homework will be posted on the class Moodle page. Your lowest text homework score will be dropped.

TUTORING: Students are encouraged to take advantage of the free tutoring available at the Math Center in Hamersly Library (Room 228). Check the webpage, www.wou.edu/mathcenter to find the times for tutors who are able to help with this class.

JOURNAL ARTICLE ASSIGNMENTS

You will be assigned to read journal articles that are related to problem solving. A short in-class or Moodle based quiz related to each article will be given.

MIDTERM EXAM

This class will have a Problem-Solving Midterm Exam to be completed individually in class. This exam will be based on Text HW problems and in-class activities. The midterm will be given in during the 1 hr 50 min class day.

FINAL EXAM

This class will have a take-home Problem-Solving Final Exam, due at 12pm on Friday, June 12th.

COURSE ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Component	%
Attendance	Possible deductions only
Text HW and Other HW	24
Math Buddy Project	30
Journal Article Quizzes	10
Midterm Exam	18
Final Exam	18
Total	100

STANDARD GRADING SCALE (total % for the course, usual rounding rules apply)

% Range	Grade	% Range	Grade	% Range	Grade
93 - 100	A	80 - 82	B-	60 - 69	D
90 - 92	A-	77 - 79	C+	Below 60	F
87 - 89	B+	73 - 76	C		
83 - 86	B	70 - 72	C-		

TIME SPENT ON MATH 396 OUTSIDE OF CLASS

It is a standard academic rule of thumb to spend two to three hours out of class for every hour in class while studying math. This is an upper division math class and the expectation is that you will spend 8 to 12 hours per week outside of class studying and working on the content and the Math Buddy project for Math 396. Set up a regular schedule for yourself and stick with it. Success in math is often directly linked to effort and regular practice.

ELECTRONICS POLICY*

Electronic items such as cell phones, laptops, iPads, iPods and e-book readers should not distract you or your classmates during class. If you are distracting yourself or others, in any way, with an electronic item in class, you will be asked to step into the hall until you are done with the item. Unauthorized electronic items used on exams or quizzes will result in a score of 0 on that entire exam or quiz.

VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL with special circumstances are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructor. For WOU Veteran resources; please see <http://wou.edu/veterans/>.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES IN THE CLASSROOM

You are welcome to have unobtrusive snacks in the classroom that leave you entirely free to fully participate in the class. Food items that smell (such as fast food) that you eat with silverware, that need peeling, etc. are distracting and should be consumed prior to or after class. You are welcome to have beverages in the classroom. If you bring food or a beverage to class then please be sure to leave a clean workspace at the end of class.

APPROPRIATE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

You are ultimately responsible for your own attendance and performance. Disruptive classroom behavior of any kind, such as talking during lecture or consistently coming to class late etc., is not appropriate. Proscribed Conduct for all students is described in the University Catalog. In particular for this course any student found cheating on an exam or copying from another student's exam paper will receive a zero score on that exam.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

It is University policy to provide, on an individualized basis, accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you must contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Services, APSC 405, or at 503-838-8250, as early as possible in the term.

INCOMPLETE POLICY

An Incomplete can only be granted for a student who is passing a class and has a documented emergency that prevents them from completing the course.

* If you are in an emergency situation in which you need to have your cell phone on quiet; please speak to me about it before class.