

## Math 338-02 Tentative Syllabus Spring 2024

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### Instructor and Student Hours:

Dr. Senfeng Liang

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Office: D356 Science Building

Class time and location: 11:00 - 12:15pm, Tuesday and Thursday A212 Science building

Student hours (online or in-person): Friday, 12:15-15:15 (it may vary; A 24-hour reservation is needed) or by appointment, click [here](#) for actual hours.

If you would like to schedule a meeting with me, please click [this link](#) to reserve a time slot 24 hours in advance. Please write **Math 338\_section number\_ your full name** in the subject of the email. For example, it should look like math338\_2\_Full name. Always use **full official name** in your email (e.g., at the end of an email). **No nick name please!** I may not reply to your email if it fails to follow the format.

### **Highlights of Very Important Things**

- **Please note that this is a math content course rather than a pedagogical method course. The focus is the math content rather than method of teaching math.**
- Midterm and Final tests will be timed tests, and the dates are listed below (SAVE THE DATES!!):
  - a. T, 3/12, Midterm test.
  - b. M, 5/13, Final test, 12:30-14:30.

### Texts:

Bassarear, T. (2012). *Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Additional Readings: will be provided as handouts (in electronic version).

**Materials:** Scientific calculator, **compass, protractor, scissors, tape**, ruler, tape ruler, colored pencils or crayons or markers. (**Get them by 1/29/2024.**)

Have:

- o A computer
- o access to a scanner, or a camera, or a smartphone
- o access to a printer
- o a stable internet connection (don't rely on cellular)
- o webcam and microphone (for online meeting purpose)

**Prerequisite:** Math 228

### Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to ...

examine, explore, discuss, and strengthen their understanding of geometry, measurement, and other related topics so that the content can be taught knowledgeably and confidently. [Note: This requires content to be stretched **beyond** the level typically taught in k – 8 settings.]

### Course Content:

Content for this course includes basic geometric properties, constructions, angles, circles, quadrilaterals, triangles, other polygons, transformations and tessellations, area, volume, surface area, spatial visualization, coordinate

geometry, Pythagorean theorem, inductive and deductive reasoning, informal proof, metric and standard measurement, and problem solving.

### **Tentative Course Requirements:**

#### *1 Test/Final:*

There will be a midterm and a final. The midterm test and final test dates are provided in the schedule. Details will be provided in the future.

#### *2 Homework, discussions, quizzes, etc.*

We may have quizzes and discussions. There will be different types of homework assignments. The most two common types are below:

***Type 1a: Handwritten homework assignments (abbreviated as HHWs) on Canvas: For handwritten homework assignment, please use a pen or ballpoint pen to write your NAME and DATE on Each page. Do NOT use a pencil to write your name and date. Sometimes, I may ask you to write your name and date in the middle of a paper.***

***Type 1b: Leadership homework assignments.*** Your leadership instructors may give you assignments.

***Type 2: Online homework (abbreviated as HWs) on canvas.*** Some assignments will use online homework on canvas. The questions may be imported from a third-party software or website or created by me. These questions are usually graded by accuracy.

#### *3 Leadership activities:*

As you are preparing to be a teacher in the future, this assignment involves the preparation and leading of the discussion/activities for one of the class sessions. You will be working in group of two to prepare and lead one session (usually 65-75 minutes). Your group is required to meet the instructor at least one week (two weeks for some topics) in advance to talk about your preparation (**not on Fridays**). **When you meet the instructor, you should have your lesson content prepared (usually in ppt format).** However, there is no need to write a formal lesson plan. My available times slots will be made by previous Saturday on google drive (remind me if you did not find it or the time slots do not work for you). Fail to meet the instructor during the previous week (or earlier) with a prepared lesson will suspend your opportunity of conducting leadership and will result in a zero point for this activity. If you lesson is less than 60 minutes (unless with a permission), it may hurt your score.

Leadership lesson should include a homework assignment that can be finished in about 30 minutes. Set the due dates as the beginning of the following week's first class (unless if we do not have a class due to various reasons). Update the due date document on google and upload the ppt on google. The leadership instructors then should collect and grade the homework assignments and send me the point grade report in google spreadsheet or excel within one week after you collect the homework (list student's last name in alphabet order). The homework assignments point should be limited between 5 to 15 points.

#### *4 Course reflection:*

You will be required to write a reflection about what you have learned from this course by the end this semester.

### **Class Responsibilities**

#### *1 Attendance and participation:*

Attendance and full participation are very important for this course. Absences must be documented either medically or justified by other reasons considered valid by the University.

**Every time your absence is unexcused, you miss 1 point up to 3 absences. If you miss 4 or more classes without a valid excuse, you will not earn any credit for attendance and participation. You are responsible for learning the missed content, all announcements and assignments made in your absence. If you miss 5 or**

**more than 5 classes without valid excuses, your grade will be F for this course.** Major emergencies will be handled on an individual basis. **Media phone devices are not to be turned on or used during class time.** Activities such as texting messages will result in losing your participation points.

## *2 Conduct:*

I will treat you as professionals and I expect the same in return.

## *3 Late Homework and make-ups:*

**No late homework will be accepted** unless you have an extremely strong reason (such as accidents, emergencies, medical reasons) (The same is true for tests.) **If you have such a reason, you must ask me via email for any possible permission in advance (or as early as you can). Oral permission is not valid.** Moreover, even if your homework is accepted, you may lose points for being late. All written assignments must be submitted on or before the time/date indicated. You have one day's grace period for handwritten homework (HHWs). Unless otherwise permitted, there is no grace period for any other assignments, tests, etc.

## *4 More information about homework:*

The written assignments measure your understanding of the methods and other mathematical aspects of the course. Correct answers are, of course, crucial, but correct answers without supporting work won't count for much here! You need to write clearly! Legible handwritten solutions with details are critical. Also remember to circle your final answer.

## *5 Disability Accommodations:*

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation before classes start.

You can click this link for more information: <https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center/>

## *6 Religious Beliefs:*

Students who sincerely held religious beliefs will be reasonably accommodated with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements. According to UWS 22.03, you must notify the instructor within the first three weeks of classes about specific dates which require accommodation.

## *7 Policies*

UW-Stevens Point values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. To ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations for all students and instructors have been developed. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. Check here for more information:

[https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/2015\\_Aug\\_Community%20Rights%20and%20Responsibilities%20Web.pdf](https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/2015_Aug_Community%20Rights%20and%20Responsibilities%20Web.pdf)

## *8 Netiquette Guidelines*

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. It is our goal to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course (especially if there is any discussion on Canvas):

- Be positive and supportive.
- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable.

Adapted from:

Mintu-Wimsatt, A., Kernek, C., & Lozada, H. R. (2010). *Netiquette: Make it part of your syllabus*. *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*, 6(1).

Shea, V. (1994). *Netiquette*. Albion.com. Retrieved from: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/book/>

#### *9 Academic Integrity:*

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment, and integrity to active learning and participation in this class. You have to follow the following academic honesty policy for this course.

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions, that means you may get zero point for an assignment or a test, or even fail the whole course.

Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

(1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

- (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
- (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination (for example, use a cell phone to contact other people during a test); collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

*10 Extra credits:* If you volunteered to show your work on board you earn 0.5 point for each class. **Even if you volunteered twice or more than twice, you earn 0.5 point for each class.** Other opportunities may be possible.

#### **ASSESSMENT INDICATORS (tentative)**

<i>Tasks</i>	<i>count</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>notes</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Attendance & participation	N/A	5	Attendance and participation are required.	1%
Midterm	1	100	There will be a midterm test.	20%
Final	1	150	There will be a final test.	30%
Online Homework	varies	varies	You will do multiple online homework assignments (HWs).	25%
Other Assignments	varies	varies	It may include Handwritten homework (HHWs), discussions, quizzes, etc.	15%
Leadership lesson	1	30	You will teach a leadership lesson with your groups.	7%
Course reflection	1	10	You will write a course reflection individually.	2%
Total				100.00

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A	94-100%	C+	77-79.99%
A-	90-93.99%	C	73-76.99%
B+	87-89.99%	C-	70-72.99%
B	83-86.99%	D+	67-69.99%
B-	80-82.99%	D	60-66.99%
		F	0-59.99%

#### **Important notes:**

- **In one HHW, you will need to hand copy an Academic Integrity Statement; failing to finish this task properly will give you an F grade for this course.**
- **If you miss 5 or more than 5 classes without valid excuses, your grade will be F for this course.**

I reserve the right to exercise discretion in raising a students' grade if the final weighted average does not appear to reflect the quality of a student's work. I will not use discretionary judgments to lower a students' final grade. The weighting of the scores may change if it results in a higher percentage for the student. Extra credit opportunities may be given throughout the semester. You should not count on it

though since there may be none. I will not round up your percent, for example, 93.94% will give you an A-, rather than an A.

**Estimated time needed for this course**

Students may need to spend 2-3 hours of preparation outside of class for every hour spent in class. MATH 338 is a three-credit class, so you should expect to spend 6-9 hours each week devoted to studying and preparing assignments for this class besides the regular class hours (i.e., 3 hours per week). **If you experience difficulty in meeting or understanding course expectations, please sign in the meeting link or make an appointment to me via email to discuss your issues immediately.**

**Extra help (STEM Tutoring)**

The STEM Tutoring Program offers FREE tutoring to support you in your STEM classes. The tutors are UWSP students who have done well in their classes and who are here to share their successful study habits and content knowledge to help others succeed. Discussing concepts and practicing problems together clarifies and solidifies knowledge, and the tutors are eager to study with you. If you have questions about the schedules or would like to make an appointment, please visit CBB 190, or email (tlctutor@uwsp.edu), or call (715) 346-3568.

What	Location	Schedule	Cost
STEM Drop-In Tutoring	CBB 190	No appointment needed – stop by when tutors are available: <a href="https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/dropInTutoring.aspx">https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/dropInTutoring.aspx</a> .	Free

**Other important notes:**

1. Grades given during the semester cannot be disputed after 5 days of receiving the grade.
- 2. Please note that this is a math content course rather than a pedagogical method course. The focus is the math content rather than method of teaching math.**
3. Calculators may or may not be used, depending on the tasks.
4. Some assignments may be due on weekends (the goal is to give people more flexibility), however, you are given sufficient time to finish them during weekdays (and before the deadlines). You should try your best to finish assignments early enough so when you have difficulties you have enough time to ask for help.
5. Sometimes, you may see my comments on your assignments on canvas, please do not comment back as I won't be able to see it (canvas did not notify me). If you reply to my comment, please email me instead.
6. I will try to reply to your emails soon, but please do not expect me to reply to your email on the same day that you send me the email. Sometimes I may need up to 48 hours or longer. I may also not check emails during the evenings, weekends, or Holidays. I may not reply to an email if what was requested in the email is unreasonable (such as asking for points without a good reason).
7. If you identify any errors, or if you have any questions, confusions regarding any aspect of this course, please contact me immediately. It is nearly impossible to make a perfect course, but I will try my best to address your issues and help you make progress on learning.
- 8. The syllabus's content may be included in quizzes or tests.**
9. The integration of myopenmath.com to Canvas may not be smooth sometimes. If you have any questions about the online homework questions, please let me know. I will explore it and try my best to help.
10. The syllabus is tentative, and I reserve the right to interpret and revise it.