

# Introductory Research Seminar

MAT 362  
Section 1  
Spring 2005  
3 p.m. - 4:40 p.m. M  
ASC 205

Professor: Dr. Kim Roth  
Office: ASC 206F  
Office Hours: 11-12 M W F, 2-3 R and by appointment and by appointment  
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**Text:** There is no official text for our course. We will begin with reading selections from Heart of Mathematics by Ed Berger and Michael Starbird. This the starting point for our mathematical reading and we will be using other sources in the course.

**Course Description:** The goal of this course is for you to learn to read, write and speak about mathematics. These skills will prepare you for your future career and for completion of senior seminar and your senior thesis.

**Prerequisite:** Sophomore or junior standing.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and participation are vital in this course. Your attendance and participation grade will be 50 points of your total grade. You will be able to miss two classes without affect to your score, although you must make up the work, including the presentations. There is a 5 point bonus available to any student who attends and participates in all classes. Participation includes not only completing the work required for class, but also actively and critically listening to others presentations.

**Examinations:** There will be no exams in this course.

**Assignments:** There will be weekly assignments in this course. Most typically they will be reading assignments in preparation for presentations or discussion. The method of assessing whether an assignment is complete will vary.

**Presentations:** There will be presentations in class most weeks. They will vary in length and content.

**Papers:** There will be a few papers during the semester. Most will be connected with a lengthier presentation. We will discuss this further in class.

**Field Trip:** There will be a class field trip to the Allegheny Mountain Section Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America on Friday April 1st and Saturday April 2nd at Slippery Rock University.

**Blackboard:** There will be a Blackboard page for this course. If you have not already done so, please sign up for a Blackboard account from ITS in ASC 302. The page for this course can be logged into from <http://www.cardinal.wju.edu> and will have listing of homework assignments, etc.

**Grades:** Grades will be assigned on the basis of 300 points distributed as follows:

- 50 points assignments
- 50 points participation and attendance
- 100 points presentations
- 100 points papers

Grades will be calculated by the following percents:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-85	C	73-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	0-59

**Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Offenses such as representing the work of another as your own, cheating on exams, providing your work to be copied by another, etc. will be met with sanctions such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course, dismissal from the university, or other penalty.

## Topics:

We will be talking about:

- Writing mathematics using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
- Effective presentations techniques and tools
- How to read a math book
- The first chapter of Heart of Mathematics
- Other readings on topics selected by the class
- Writing a job application or grant proposal
- Reading a journal article

This schedule is not in order and is subject to change.