

Course Syllabus
Math 470.08
Methods of Research
3 Credits
Spring, 2006

1. **Class meeting information:** Class meets in 401 LDB Tuesday, Thursday 3:30 - 5:00 pm
2. **Professor:** Dr. Jacqueline Jensen
Office: 410 Lee Drain
Office Phone: 294-3517
e-mail: jensen@shsu.edu
web-page: http://www.shsu.edu/~mth_jaj
3. **Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 - 3:30 pm, and, of course, by appointment.
4. **Course Description:** This course is intended to give you experience embarking upon an undergraduate research project. Each student will choose a topic, research that topic, and present their research in a poster presentation, a paper, and an oral presentation. The oral presentation will be given during the student talk sessions of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America in Wichita Falls, TX which occurs April 6-8, 2006.
5. **Course Objectives:** This course is intended to give you experience embarking upon an undergraduate research project. Classes will cover:
 - choosing a research topic
 - conducting mathematical research
 - writing an abstract
 - preparing an oral presentation
 - preparing a poster presentation
 - writing a mathematical paper (including the use of LaTeX)
6. **Required Supplies:** Students will be required to provide materials for a poster.
7. **Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend every class. If class must be missed, the student is expected to make an appointment with the professor. The professor will keep a record of attendance. Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Practice presentations will be made in class on certain days and it will be considered rude to interrupt a presentation by being tardy.
8. **Assignments:**
 - (a) **Homework:** This portion of your grade is determined by your course attendance, class participation, and your ability to complete assignments by the given deadlines. For the “oral presentation” project, these deadlines are NOT negotiable, and your homework grade will suffer greatly if you miss these deadlines. As part of this grade, students are expected to participate in the constructive evaluation of posters, papers, and presentations given by other students.

(b) **Projects:** There will be three major projects during the course of the semester - the preparation of a talk, a poster and a paper on the research topic chosen each the student. Each project will have pieces due prior to the project deadline. Deadlines and guidelines will be given during the course of the semester.

9. **Final Exam:** The **final exam** will be held on Tuesday, 9 May from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. It will cover material presented by other students in the course. Each student will be asked to submit three questions about their project. The final exam will consist of questions submitted by students and questions written by the instructor.

10. **Grading Plan:** The course grade is based on:

Homework	10%
Oral presentation	25%
Poster presentation	20%
Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%

11. **Student Syllabus Guidelines:** You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

12. **Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

13. **Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

14. **Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

15. **Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

16. **Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrars Office.

17. **Additional Information** All information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.