

# MA 391: COMPOSITION AND COMMUNICATION

Dr. David Mehrle\*

While we wait for class to start:

- (1) Introduce yourself to each of your neighbors
- (2) Tell them about your favorite math class(es)
- (3) Share a question you have about this course

\*(rhymes with “early”)

In groups of no more than four, work on the following:

A *unit fraction* is a fraction of the form  $\frac{1}{n}$  for an integer  $n$ .

- (1) When can you write  $\frac{1}{n}$  as the sum of two unit fractions?
- (2) When can you write  $\frac{2}{n}$  as the sum of two unit fractions?
- (3)\* Can you always write  $\frac{4}{n}$  as the sum of three unit fractions?

In your groups, discuss:

- (1) What's good about these proofs? What's bad?
- (2) Which of the proofs is the most clear?
- (3) Which one would you like most as homework solutions?
- (4) Which one is highest quality?

# MA 391: COMPOSITION AND COMMUNICATION

This is a course about mathematical communication in all of its forms. We will study and practice written and spoken mathematical communication in various formats and for various audiences, including scientists, teachers, students, etc. In service of this goal, we will see the variety present in mathematics beyond the classroom. A secondary role of this course is to broaden our vision of the nature and role of mathematics in society.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Read and learn mathematics from sources
- Write formal and informal mathematics
- Present formal and informal mathematics
- Understand how math can be misused and abused

# GRADES

Your final grade will be a weighted average of four categories:

Category	Weight	Grade	Threshold
Homework/Quizzes	50%	A	90%
Mid-term Project	20%	B	80%
Final Project	20%	C	70%
Participation	10%	D	60%

## HOMEWORK AND QUIZZES

- Regular homework posted to the Canvas page
- Occasional quizzes announced in advance (no surprises)
- You may use any resource but you must cite your sources
- AI policy to be discussed on Friday
- Late work happens. Email me and we'll figure it out

# PROJECTS

## Mid-Term Project

- Written mid-term project will be due March 13th ( $\pi$ -day)
- Drafts will be required before then
- No late work

## Final Project

- Final project with presentation component due April 20th
- No late work

# PARTICIPATION

- This is not a lecture class
- Do the reading, come to class prepared to discuss
- 3 unexcused absences allowed
- May lose points if you are not mentally present
- Please stay home and recover if you are sick!

Questions?

## HOMEWORK

Intro Survey on Canvas due Friday before class