
COURSE INFORMATION
MATH 4301 (Honours Seminar) 2013-14

Working under the guidance of an approved faculty advisor, students will independently study an area of mathematics. Students will write a paper (approximately 20 pages) and will give a presentation (20 minutes long) describing the research conducted.

Time TTh 11:30-1:00
Place CB 4058
Coordinator Adam Van Tuyl
Office: RB 2015
Text *(as needed)*
Email avantuyl@lakeheadu.ca
Web Page http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/~avantuyl/courses/2013_14_math4301.html

Notes on class time. Unlike most of your classes, most of your work will be done outside of the regular class time. During the first semester, we will meet at least once a week in order to monitor your progress. As the academic year progresses, we will meet less often. However, please keep the above times free every week. All presentations will take place during this time slot. You will also arrange to meet with your faculty advisor on a regular basis. You may want to use this time slot to meet with him or her.

Notes on faculty advisor. Each student will work with a faculty member of the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Students are asked to contact faculty members individually to determine if the faculty member would be willing to act as a supervisor. Your grade in the course will be decided by your faculty advisor and the course coordinator (in 2013-2014, this will be Dr. Adam Van Tuyl). In the case that this is the same person, another faculty member will be assigned as a “second reader”.

Notes on topic. As part of the Honours Seminar, you will pick an area of mathematics that interests you. We are not expecting you to produce original mathematics. Instead, we want you to learn how to pick a new topic in mathematics and identify some of the key problems and results in a particular area. Your topic for independent study will be based upon a variety of sources (e.g. textbooks, journal articles). The only restriction on your choice of topic is that you pick an area of mathematics not directly covered in any course you took at Lakehead University.

There is some flexibility on the type of project you can undertake. For example, if you are interested in programming, and you can find someone to supervise you, you can tackle a computational problem. It is suggested that you pick a topic that interests you.

We have examples of projects from previous years. If you would like to see a copy, please contact the course coordinator.

Marking Scheme. Students grades will be based upon following rubric. A description of each item is found below.

Task	Points
Topic proposal	5
Draft outline	5
Submit draft	5
Present a 5-10 minute talk	5
Provide a peer-review report of fellow student's draft	5
Submit second draft	5
Practise presentation	5
Provide a peer-review report of fellow student's presentation	5
Final report	30
Final presentation	30
Totals	100

Here are some further details on the above list.

1. Topic proposal. Each student will write a one page paper that contains the following information: 1) name, 2) faculty advisor, 3) title of project, 4) book(s) to be used in the project, and 5) a one-to-two paragraph summary of what you want to learn and why. The topic of your proposal should be an area of mathematics not directly covered in any course you took at Lakehead University, and needs to be approved by your advisor. The proposal will be submitted to both the coordinator and the advisor.

A copy of your proposal will be shared with all other students in the course (if they come across information that would be helpful to your project, they can pass it on to you).

2. Draft outline. You will provide your advisor and the coordinator with an outline of your project. It should include a bibliography.

3. Submit first draft. You will provide your advisor and the coordinator with the first draft of your project. This should include about 75% of the material of the final version. This will be due at the end of first semester. The coordinator and advisor will provide timely feedback. You will also need to provide one more copy for Step 5 of the process (see below).

4. 5-10 minute talk. At the beginning of the second semester, you will present a short 5 to 10 minute talk on your topic. For example, you could talk about your problem, or an interesting result. You will also discuss your future goals for the project.

5. Peer-review of another student's draft. You will critically read another student's draft (to be assigned randomly) and provide up to two pages of feedback for your fellow student. A copy of your feedback will also go to your advisor and the coordinator.

6. Submit second draft. You will provide your advisor and the coordinator with a second version of your project. This version will incorporate the feedback from the advisor, the coordinator, and fellow student. This version will be a close approximation of the final version.

7. Practise presentation. You will give a practise version of your talk for the coordinator, your advisor, and one fellow student. They will provide you with timely feedback.

8. Peer-reviewed of another student's talk. You will give feedback to another student on their practise talk. You will also provide a copy of your written feedback to your advisor and the coordinator.

9. Final project. Using all feedback accumulated, the student will provide the coordinator and the advisor with a copy of their final project.

10. Final presentation. The student will give a 20 minute presentation on their project.

Further notes:

- The onus is on the student to arrange meetings with your supervisor. It is recommended that you meet with your supervisor at least once a week.
- You are required to attend all talks given by students in the course. Failure to attend a talk will result in 5 points deducted from your mark.
- Meeting deadlines are important. You will lose 1 point for every day (weekends counting as one) that you are late.
- Every assignment must contain the course number, your name, and your student ID.
- All material that is to be handed in should be typed up using L^AT_EX, single sided, and stapled.
- All students will be expected to attend Department Colloquiums, provided they have no other conflict.

Tentative Schedule. We will use the following schedule, which is subject to change. Changes to this schedule will be announced in class or via email (and posted on the class web page). Items in **BOLD** are requirements of the project.

Sept. 9, 2013	First semester begins
Oct. 3, 2013	Proposal of topic due
Oct. 14, 2013	Thanksgiving (No classes)
Oct. 31, 2013	Draft outlines due
Nov. 28, 2013	First draft due
Dec. 2, 2013	First semester ends
Jan. 6, 2014	Second semester begins
Jan. 9, 2014	Mini-talks
Jan. 23, 2014	Peer review of fellow student's draft due
Feb. 13, 2014	Second draft due
Feb. 17-21, 2014	Reading Week (No classes)
Feb. 25-27, 2014	Practise presentation
March 6, 2014	Peer review of fellow student's practise talk due
March 25-27, 2014	Final presentations (schedule to be determined)
April 4, 2014	Final project due
April 4, 2014	Second semester ends
