

Syllabus, Math 598, Section 004

Seminar: Graduate Student Teaching Seminar

Day: Wednesday, unless otherwise noted

Time: 3:35 – 4:25 PM

Place: Ayres 314

Website: <http://www.math.utk.edu/~eaton/Math598.htm>

(for handouts and updated schedule of events)

Topic Calendar

August:

August 30th - Everything you ever wanted to know about teaching and surviving graduate school but forgot to ask

This will be an introduction to the Graduate Student Teaching Seminar Series, followed by a panel of varying levels of graduate students sharing their experiences as a graduate student and as a new GTA. Food will be served.

Last day to register for the class will be Friday September 1st. You must see Pam to register.

September:

September 6th - Grading Assessments and Using Rubrics

We will review a mock test, available on the website, to facilitate discussion about how to assess and grade student work. We discuss about what you expect your students to learn and how that affects grading.

September 13th - Mentor Program: Meet your mentor and talk about issues you've faced
Students that are registered in the course will be assigned a mentor with which to work during the semester. Today you will meet your mentor, get to know him/her, and find times to sit in on each other's classes. Bring your list from last class - we will talk about how to assess classroom instruction and dynamics.

September 20th - Motivating students and improving the student teacher relationship
Talk about ways in which you can motivate student learning. How can you encourage your students and make mathematics a positive experience? We will discuss some ideas and hear from undergraduate students who have taken service courses here and listen to how they perceive the mathematics classroom.

September 27th - Responsibilities, Classroom Management, and other Things to Remember

Are we students or are we instructors? What added responsibilities are there besides making assessments and grading them, and how do you deal with it? We will talk about how to manage your class, policies and procedures for cheating, and where to draw the line between student and teacher.

October:

October 4th - Getting group-work work for you, in-class and outside

Have you ever tried to implement group work and it failed horribly or it succeeded fantastically? What are some of the pitfalls you can avoid, and what does the literature say about group learning? How do you find time in class for group learning, and how can you make it work efficiently? We will discuss all of these topics and more!

October 11th - Day Before Fall Break, No Session

October 18th - Developing Exams, Homework and other Assessments

Do you wonder if that test distribution is you or them? Are students memorizing or are they learning. In this seminar, we will talk about setting goals and expectations for your students and centering exams, homework and other assessments around those expectations. We also talk about how to form assessment problems and questions, from wording to concept reinforcement.

October 25th - Writing and delivering lesson plans: What to think about before class
What does it take to be a great teacher in front of the classroom? We are visited by praised GTAs as they share how they prepare for class and what makes them a favorite among their students.

November:

November 1st – Help each other, help your students, and have your students help you. We talk about some of the common themes developing in what makes good teachers so good after having heard people share experiences in seminar and after having exchanged classroom visits with our mentor. We will talk about getting teaching feedback and what to do with it. We also talk about teaching outside of the classroom into office hours during one-on-one student interactions.

November 8th - Technology in the Classroom: Using the Smart Classroom and Other Classroom Technology

We meet in a “smart” room. Do you know what a “smart” room is? Do you know about its potential? How can we take advantage of today’s technology to ease our responsibilities and make our teaching more interactive and effective? We will hear how Bob Guest uses Excel, how Amy Szczepanski uses her iPod, and how Carrie Eaton used online technology in class and got \$500 for a new laptop.

November 15th - Developing a Syllabus: What to think about before the first day of class
Now that we have an idea of how we would like to teach our own class, how do we make that vision clear to our students? How do we make sure that the assignments and assessments follow our classroom philosophy? And what else do we need to remember

about policies and procedures? We will talk about different types of syllabi and what things we should be thinking about as we sit down to write or adapt a syllabus for class.

November 22nd - Day Before Thanksgiving, No Seminar

November 29th - What have we learned?

We come back together for one last meeting to talk about what we learned in the seminar and take some topics by request. What were the good, the bad, and the ugly? What would you like to talk about more? We wrap up the seminar with introducing the concept of a teaching philosophy, and talk about what we would each now write as our teaching philosophy.