

GRSC 7770 - Graduate Teaching Assistant Seminar - Fall Semester 2009

Course Information:

Call Number: 73-614

Meeting: Wednesday 3:35 - 5:30

Building 1023 - Boyd Graduate Studies - Room 323

Instructor: Brandon Samples

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Office Hours: By Appointment.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ted Shifrin

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Course Objective: GRSC 7770 is a course designed to give new graduate teaching assistants the opportunity to become familiar with university and departmental policies, to learn about various teaching resources that are available, and to practice and discuss teaching mathematics courses here at UGA. Most of you taking this course are first time teachers, so it's important to discuss effective teaching techniques with your peers as well as with experienced teachers. Some of the goals/topics for this course include, but are not limited to, the following:

- What are your responsibilities as a graduate assistant if you are grading a course, running study sessions, teaching a calculus recitation, or teaching a precalc/calc course of your own
- What expectations and goals should you set for yourself when you teach a math course
- Learning how to construct an effective course outline and syllabus, and being willing to self-evaluate and make changes to course plans, if necessary
- Build a foundation for teaching math courses by discussing various teaching techniques and strategies and by observing other teachers
- Constructing effective lesson plans that include clear, precise definitions and well-chosen examples, allow for class interaction and questions, and, if appropriate, utilize various technologies
- Understand issues that arise in math courses such as academic dishonesty and university documented disabilities
- Understanding how to set a professional tone in order to gain student respect as well as promote self-confidence in what you are teaching

Course Text/Materials: The texts that we will use for this course include: How to Teach Mathematics, 2nd Edition, by Steven Krantz and Teaching Mathematics in Colleges and Universities: Case Studies for Today's Classroom by Solomon Friedberg. The department has copies of these books for your use during the semester (see Julie). A detailed schedule for the course will be posted on my website.

Grading: Your grade of S or U will be determined by your participation and attendance in the course as well as your completing the following tasks:

- Keep up with the reading assignments, so that you can participate in class discussions
- Give a practice lecture of about 30-40 minutes on a calculus topic and provide feedback to your fellow classmates on the days you do not lecture
- Create a course syllabus for a precalculus or calculus course (Due: September 16)
- Observe two courses taught by current instructors of precalculus/calculus courses and submit written reports for these observations (Due: November 18)
- Develop a *working* personal webpage via your allotted space on the department server, which includes at least contact info and teaching resources (Due: November 18)

I emphasize that participation in the discussions is vital to your growth as an instructor, so I will expect everyone to contribute their experiences and opinions. Details for the various tasks will be given in class and posted to the website.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken seriously in this course since participation is the most important component of this seminar. Any student who misses two or more days throughout the semester can be automatically withdrawn from the course. **N.B.:** Satisfactory completion of this course is a requirement to be allowed to teach at UGA (recitation or one's own course).

Academic Honesty Policy: Students will be required to abide by the University's academic honesty policy at all times throughout the course. Please refer to the university's honesty policy, which I have conveniently linked on my website or consult the University's academic honesty webpage: <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>

Disability: Students with a disability or health-related issue who need a class accommodation should make an appointment to speak with me or consult the following website: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

This syllabus may be changed throughout the semester if deemed necessary at a later date