

Math M595 Seminar In teaching of College Math

Meeting Time and Place: Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:00 Rawles Hall 104

Instructor: Linda McKinley

Math M595 meets once a week for the entire semester. Ideally, students would enroll in this seminar before they are given their first teaching opportunities, but I would also welcome associate instructors with previous or current teaching assignments. In M595 I will concentrate on fairly broad topics related to teaching and course management rather than policies and methods that are specific to one or two courses. We will also discuss issues that would be helpful to associate instructors who will teach recitations or assist instructors of large sections.

My hope is to get students to participate very actively in a variety of discussions and in-class activities. Students will also have the opportunity to give mock mini-lectures.

I will try to cover most of the topics listed below, but due to time constraints, the specific topics covered will vary from one semester to another depending on the needs and interests of the students.

Topics:

1. Description of Math Department lower-division courses, their objectives and clientele.
2. Demographics of the IU student population, their backgrounds, expectations, strengths and weaknesses.
3. What are the qualities that define a “good” math teacher ?
4. What are the responsibilities of the instructor and what are student responsibilities ? How do we communicate this information to students ?
5. Fostering learning inside the classroom:
 - a. What format will your classroom use (lecture, activity, discussion, flipped classroom, etc.)
 - b. Effective use of class time
 - c. How to prepare your presentation
 - d. How to make your lecture interactive
 - e. How to use group work, activities, and other ways to foster student engagement
6. Improving your ability to explain mathematics clearly at the board
7. Dealing with behavior issues, misconduct and problems in the classroom
8. Emergency management

9. Working with special needs students and accommodations
10. Fostering learning outside of the classroom:
 - a. Designing assignments
 - b. Effective tutoring and other support options.
11. Evaluation:
 - a. Writing exams and quizzes
 - b. Grading homework, exams and quizzes
 - c. Making sense out of exam scores and curving
12. Designing and maintaining a gradebook
13. Figuring course grades and complying with university policy
14. Academic Dishonesty

Several sessions will also be devoted to “mini lectures” and feedback from the class.