Syllabus for Math 320
Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers
Spring 2000, MWF 8:30

Instructor: Louis Pigno, CW 135 Phone: 532-0559
Office hours: MW 9:30 and by appointment


Course Description: The purpose of this course is to prepare you to be a teacher of mathematics at the elementary school level. It is our hope that this class will help develop your confidence and enthusiasm for mathematics and that you will then share these qualities with your own students. There is a great need in this country for students graduating from high school to have a more solid foundation in basic mathematics and logic, and this all starts at the elementary school level. In order to teach mathematics you must first master the concepts yourself. You should have a command of mathematics at a level above the one you will be teaching at.

The topics we have chosen for this class are all recommended by the *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Teaching Standards* for the elementary school level. They include, problem solving, set theory, logic, numeration systems and whole numbers, integers, number theory, rational numbers, decimals and real numbers. Roughly, we will be covering the first six chapters of the textbook. There will be an emphasis on learning mathematics by exploring, reasoning, conjecturing and trial and error.

Grading: There will be three one-hour exams, worth 100 points each, a final exam worth 200 points and weekly homework assignments usually worth 12 points each. The problems assigned during a given week are due on Wednesday of the following week. Problems are assigned in class on a daily basis and can be discussed in class the next day, if time permits.

Make-up Exams: No make-up exams will be given. If you have an excused absence from a one-hour exam then your final grade will be based on your other exam scores. If you have excused absences from two hourly exams or the final exam then you will be given an incomplete and be required to complete the course the following semester. You must contact me before an exam in order to receive an excused absence.

Important Dates:
Monday, Jan. 17, University Holiday
Friday, Feb. 11, Exam 1 (tentative date)
Friday, Mar. 17, Exam 2 (tentative date)
Mar. 20-24, Spring Break
Friday, Apr. 28, Exam 3 (tentative date)
Friday, May 5, Last day of class
Tuesday, May 9, Final Exam, 11:50 am -1:40 pm.