SPRING 2016 MATH 2794W SECTION 1
MATHEMATICAL WRITING SEMINAR
INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS

Instructor: Alan Parry **Email:** alan.parry@uconn.edu **Phone:** 860-426-3939

Office: MSB 222 **Office Hours:** MWF 11:15am - 12:15pm

Classroom: MSB 215 **Class Time:** M 5:45pm - 6:35pm

Talks Room: MSB 203 **Talks Time:** W 5:45pm

Course Description: The student will attend talks during the semester, and choose a mathematical topic from one of them to investigate in detail. The student will write a well-revised, comprehensive paper on this topic, including a literature review, description of technical details, and a summary and discussion.

Course Prerequisites: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011; Math 2110Q (or 2130Q or 2143Q) and one of Math 2210Q or 2410Q or 2420Q or 2144Q.

Required Textbook: None

Assignments: There will be 3 writing assignments that you will have an opportunity to revise after the first submission. The total required length of these 3 assignments will be 8 pages, but each assignment will have a specific length requirement. The revision and editing process for at least 2 of these assignments will be by peer review. You will be graded on both your revised submission and the quality of the peer reviews you provide to your classmates. Prior to these writing assignments, there will be at least 2 LaTeX practice sheets. All of the written work in this course must be done in LaTeX. As such, you need to find a good LaTeX distribution and front-end and install these on your machine. I suggest MiKTeX for Windows machines and MacTeX for Macs.

You will also be required to attend at least 7 talks during the semester and submit comment forms for each talk you attend. While it is not required that these 7 talks be the first 7 talks of the semester, it is recommended that you attend the first 7 talks since you will have to select your topic from the first 7. These comment forms will be due BY EMAIL at 7pm on the Friday after the talk was given. NO comment forms will be accepted late. If you miss the comment form deadline, you will have to attend another talk and submit the comment form for that talk by the due date for that talk.

Final Paper: The course will culminate in a 7 - 10 page paper written on a subject chosen from the first 7 Wednesday lectures. **The Final Paper is due TBA.** You will have to research the topic to find out details that expand on the information in the talk itself. Progress towards this paper will be tracked via deadlines for different phases of the paper preparation. You can submit each of these different tasks early. Late submissions of any one of these components will incur a penalty to your overall Final Paper grade equal to 2% per day late up to a maximum

loss of 24%. Late Submission of the Final Draft without a valid and verified explanation will result in a score of 0 for the Final Paper grade. The deadlines for the different components of this paper are as follows (all submissions are due via email):

Topic Selection:	Friday, March 11 at 7pm
Outline and Bibliography:	Friday, April 1 at 7pm
First Complete Draft:	Wednesday, April 20 at 7pm
Final Draft:	TBA

LaTeX: The final paper, all writing assignments, all comment forms, all LaTeX practices, and most editing/writing practices will be required to be completed in LaTeX and submitted via email. The first week of class will cover the basics of using LaTeX. However, see the LaTeX resources below for extra help. As we will go over a lot of things on the computer in class, it is highly recommended that you bring your laptop to class. Please also try to have a LaTeX distribution and front-end (like MiKTeX and or MacTeX) installed before the first class.

Grades: Scores for assignments and the final paper will account for the following portions of your final grade.

15%	Talk Comment Forms
10%	LaTeX Practice
15%	Peer Reviews
30%	Writing Assignments
30%	Final Paper

According to university-wide policies for W courses, you cannot pass this course unless you receive a passing grade for its writing components. As such, failure to obtain a passing grade in either the Writing Assignments or Final Paper categories will result in an F for the course regardless of your scores in the other categories.

Writing Center: There is free writing tutoring available from the Writing Center. You can bring your drafts there for some advice before submission. See the Writing Center website for more information on when tutors are on duty (http://writingcenter.uconn.edu/).

Absences and Make-Up Work: It is solely your responsibility to be in class. I will not take roll (although roll will be taken at the math club talks, your attendance will only count if you submit the talk comment form). If you miss class due to illness or other reasons, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a friend and/or find out from me or others what we covered in class. Policies regarding missed work in any of these categories can be found in the appropriate section above.

Academic Integrity: Honesty and integrity are essential in a strong education; if you cheat, lie, or plagiarize, you are disadvantaging yourself as well as others. As such, cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. You have the freedom to use whatever resources available to

you for assignments. However, any questionable behavior should be avoided, i.e. if you have a question about whether something you are doing or plan to do is cheating, either ask me about it or simply do not do it. Any deviation from these required behaviors will constitute a violation of the Student Code and will result in severe consequences. These consequences may include, but are not limited to, receiving a 0 for that particular exam, receiving an "F" for the entire course, and/or my sending of a letter to the Dean of Students. For more information, see the full version of the Student Code of Conduct at http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html.

General Expectations: All of you are collegiate level students and as such I expect collegiate level commitment to this class. This is an important class even if you think it is not essential to your future job or major. A solid math background is vital to any well rounded education and will benefit you in ways that you may not realize right now. For example, math courses build essential problem solving skills that will help you solve problems in general, not just problems related to the course material. As such, it is very important for you to take this course seriously and work hard. Complete all of the assignments, attend all of the classes, and get any and all extra help that you may need throughout the course. Don't just do it for the sake of a grade, but do it for the sake of your own education.

SPRING 2016 MATH 2794W SYLLABUS

Day	Topic(s)
Jan 20	No class
Jan 25	LaTeX Tutorial; First LaTeX practice
Jan 27	Talk
Feb 1	Finish LaTeX Tutorial; Second LaTeX practice
Feb 3	Talk
Feb 8	Paper editing examples; Tone; Organization; Coherency; Direction; POV
Feb 10	Talk
Feb 15	Sample Introductions; Writing Assignment: Mock Introduction (1 page)
Feb 17	Talk
Feb 22	Writing Samples; Peer Review Discussion Groups; Writing Assignment: Mock Content Section (3 pages)
Feb 24	Talk

Day	Topic(s)
Feb 29	More Writing and Editing Samples
Mar 2	Talk
Mar 7	Peer Review Discussion Groups; Writing Assignment: Mock Paper (4 pages)
Mar 9	Talk
Mar 11	**Final Paper Topic Selection Due by Email by 7pm**
Mar 14 - 18	Spring Break
Mar 21	Writing Outlines and Bibliographies; Samples
Mar 23	Talk
Mar 28	Peer Review Discussion Groups
Mar 30	Talk
Apr 1	**Final Paper Outline and Bibliography Due by Email by 7pm**
Apr 4	No Class; Individual Meetings by Appointment
Apr 6	Talk
Apr 11	No Class; Individual Meetings by Appointment
Apr 13	Talk
Apr 18	No Class; Individual Meetings by Appointment
Apr 20	Talk
Apr 20	**First COMPLETE Draft (Full 7-10 Pages, no empty sections) Due by Email by 7pm**
April 25	No Class; Individual Meetings by Appointment
April 27	Talk

Final Paper: Due BY EMAIL by TBA.