

Math 399 – Combinatorics

Extended Format, Spring 2004

Course Procedures

Professor: Josh Laison

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Class Meetings: two hours a week, sometime, somewhere...

Textbook: Combinatorics Through Guided Discovery, Kenneth P. Bogart, available at <http://www.math.dartmouth.edu/~kpbogart/ComboNotes11-06-04.pdf>

Course Web Page: <http://faculty1.coloradocollege.edu/~jlaison/combinatorics.htm>

Grading:

Class Attendance and Participation	60%
Written Work	40%

Course Format:

This course will be taught by guided discovery. This means that you will spend most of the time in class working in a group of 3 or 4 students on problems from the text. The textbook I have chosen consists almost entirely of problems; you will learn about various topics within the field of combinatorics by working on problems about those topics. I will decide on a reasonable number of problems to work on each week; if you don't finish them by the end of class, you should finish them outside of class. At the end of the class, I will select 1 or 2 problems from those worked on that day for everyone to write up carefully to hand in. In addition, during class I may ask you to present your solution to any of the problems from the handout. Your presentations will not be graded.

Attendance:

Because most of the work in this course will be done during class time, and because your participation is valuable to your group-mates, class attendance is extremely important. There will be 12 class meetings, and attendance and participation is worth 60% of your grade. So, each class meeting is worth 5% of your grade. If you miss a class, you will get 0 out of 5 for that class. Unless there are unusual circumstances, attendance will earn you 5 out of 5.

Note that we will most likely not meet during the third week of block 6, due to a class trip in my Graph Theory class. We will arrange an additional class meeting to make up the missed day.

Written Work:

The problems I designate to be written up from a given week will be due the following week. Each problem will be graded out of 10 points. If you turn in a problem one week and get less than 10 points on it, you may resubmit a new or edited solution repeatedly, as many times as you like.

Honor Code:

You are encouraged to discuss the problems with me and with your classmates in and out of class. However, all written work should be your own.