

# Math 399 – Knot Theory

## Spring 2003

### Course Procedures

**Professor:** Josh Laison  
Palmer 140  
x6544  
jlaison@coloradocollege.edu

**Class Meetings:** Palmer 142  
3:00 Tuesdays?

**Text:** The Knot Book, Colin Adams

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

#### Grading:

Problem Assignments (15)	60%
Class Attendance and Participation	20%
Final Project	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Problem Assignments:

The course will consist almost exclusively of student presentation of problems from the text. You will be responsible for presenting a small number of problems during each class, and also for commenting on and critiquing other students' presentations. You will select 15 of the problems that you present over the course of the semester to write up carefully and submit for a grade. You may submit any problem that you have presented at any time after your presentation, before the end of class. The problems will be graded as follows:

Clarity and completeness of presentation:	1-5 points
Clarity and completeness of written solution:	1-5 points
Difficulty of problem:	Standard problems: 1-3 points Starred problems: 4-5 points Unsolved problems: 100 points

Note that you will only get credit for a difficult problem if you have made at least partial progress. Also note that it is not necessary for you to choose difficult problems to do well in the course, but if you want the extra challenge, it is available to you.

You are encouraged to work on as many of the problems as you like, and work on them with other members of the class. I don't want you to get too hung up about the problem grades; the important thing is that you experience the joy of discovery and mathematical insight.

**Class Participation:**

Since so much of the class is discussion of problems, participation in these discussions is very important. I encourage you to spend some time thinking about problems that others will be presenting, so that you can follow their solution and have input in the discussion.

**Final Project:**

Towards the end of the semester, you will prepare a final project, presenting a further topic in knot theory not covered in class. I will provide guidance for references, depending on your own interest. You will hand in a written paper, and present your project orally to the class, and hopefully a few others. We will discuss the final project further in class.

**Honor Code:**

You are encouraged to discuss the problems with me and with your colleagues in class; however, your finished write-up of the problem should be your own.