

**MATH 4513 COURSE INFORMATION
SPRING 2008**

Instructor: John Albert

Office: PHSC 1004

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Office Hours: Mon, Wed 2:30 to 3:30; Thurs 10:30 to 11:30 (or by appointment)

Prerequisite: Senior standing or permission of instructor

Course structure: For about the first half of the course, we will run the course as a problem-solving seminar.

The second half of the course will consist of presentations by students. The presentation should have as its theme an unsolved problem, and should include an explanation of the problem along with related problems that have been solved. Each presentation will be done by a pair of students, and will occupy a 50-minute class period. Each pair of students will submit a written report along with their presentation.

You will be choosing your own topics for presentations. Some ideas may suggest themselves to you as we work on problems during the first half of the course. You can also check out the web pages for previous semesters of this course (<http://www.math.ou.edu/~jalbert/courses/4513sp06.html> and <http://www.math.ou.edu/~jalbert/courses/4513fa05.html>) for a look at the write-ups done by the students in those classes. Wikipedia is, as you already know, a good source, but I encourage you to go beyond that. The best resources available to you are math books and journals (probably the journals you will find most useful are the *American Mathematical Monthly* and *Mathematics Magazine*). Do some browsing in the library!

Several assignments and/or exams will be given consisting of problems taken from the first half of the course as well as from students' presentations.

Information about the course will be posted on the course web page, which is at www.math.ou.edu/~jalbert/courses/4513sp08.html .

Grading: Equal portions of your grade will come from (i) assignments and exams, (ii) your presentation, and (iii) the write-up accompanying your presentation.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course should speak with me as early in the semester as possible.