Math 1340: Mathematics and Politics — Summer 2010

Course Hours:
Mondays – Fridays
1 – 2:15, 2:30 – 3:45 PM
206 Malott Hall
June 1 – June 25

Course Instructor:
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Course Grader:
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104 Malott Hall
office hours TBA

Textbook: *Mathematics and Politics, Second Edition* by Alan D. Taylor and Allison M. Pacelli. This is on reserve in the Math Library in Malott Hall, and also available electronically through Cornell's Library website.

Course Website:

www.math.cornell.edu/~goldberg/math1340.html

This is where we will post class summaries, assignments, announcements, supplemental readings and information, etc. This is also where you can submit anonymous feedback about this course. Please check it frequently.

Course Description: (From Cornell’s Course Catalog) We apply mathematical reasoning to some problems arising in the social sciences. We discuss game theory and its applications to political and historical conflicts. Power indices are introduced and used to analyze some political institutions. The problem of finding a fair election procedure to choose among three or more alternatives is analyzed.

Homework: There will be reading assignments given each day. Additionally, homework will be assigned and collected several times per week, usually in the form of exercises from the textbook or short essays based on reading assignments. *Late homework will generally not be accepted.* You may discuss your homework with your classmates, but must write up your own solutions, including the names of any collaborators. Please work neatly, clearly, and carefully. Mathematical symbols are just notation for actual words and phrases, and proper grammar is important.

Grading: (approximate scheme)
25% — Midterm Exam
25% — Final Project
25% — Attendance, Class Participation, and Class Presentations
25% — Homework
Academic Integrity:
Each student in this course is fully expected to abide by Cornell University’s Code of Academic Integrity, which can be found at the following website.

http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html

Note to Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact your instructor, as well as Student Disability Services, whose website is the following.

http://sds.cornell.edu/

It is Cornell policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students who have a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, or systemic) that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services and their instructors for a confidential discussion of their individual need for academic accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in 420 CCC. Staff can be reached by calling (607) 254-4545.