

## Exploring Mathematics Syllabus

**Course Name and Number:** MS108 Exploring Mathematics, Fall 2008

**Time:** Sections 1: Mon., Wed. and Fri., 10:00–11:00

**Room:** Ayers Hall, room 218

**Instructor's Name:** Prof. Thomas E. Leathrum

**office:** Ayers Hall, room 141     **phone:** x5827     **e-mail:** leathrum@jsu.edu

**Office Hours:**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30–10:00	10:00–11:30	9:30–10:00	10:00–11:30	9:30–10:00
4:00–4:30		3:30–4:30	1:00–2:00	

**Required Textbook:**

*Using and Understanding Mathematics: A Quantitative Reasoning Approach*, Fourth Edition, by Jeffrey Bennett and William Briggs (Addison-Wesley 2008).

**Other Required Materials:**

A *scientific calculator* capable of performing advanced algebraic calculations *required* for this course. Such calculators are quite common and fairly inexpensive. Be forewarned that I may not be able to help you with problems specific to your calculator if you are using a model with which I am not familiar. It is also *strongly recommended* that you be comfortable with the campus Internet service or with some other Internet service provider so that you can contact me via e-mail (address given above) and access any class materials available online (see below).

**Prerequisites:**

MS100 Intermediate Algebra or its equivalent.

**Expected Coverage in Textbook:**

This course will cover Chapters 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 12 in the textbook, as indicated in the Course Schedule handout.

**Exam Schedule:**

Three 60-minute in-class exams:

Wed. Sept. 16, Wed. Oct. 14, Wed. Nov. 11

*Final Exam* Monday December 7, 10:30–12:30

**Homework:**

Homework problems will be assigned from the problems at the end of each section covered in class. You should complete these homework assignments prior to the next class meeting. Some (but not all) homeworks will be collected in class, and others will be evaluated using “homework quizzes” (where you will be asked at the beginning of class to copy and submit a few selected homework problems). There may even be occasional

“break days” where no homework will be collected at all – on such occasions, you should still complete the assignment so that you can use it for studying later. You will be told which of these options to expect when the homework assignment is made. Homeworks which are collected will be “spot graded” — your work will be checked for whether you completed the assignment, but then only a selected few problems from the assignment will be corrected. Collected homeworks and homework quizzes will be graded on a scale of 0 to 5 — see the General Policies handout to find out how these grades will be figured into your course grade.

**Course Information Available Online:**

Some course information, such as handouts and homework assignments, will be available online, at the following address: <http://cs.jsu.edu/mcis/faculty/leathrum/ms108>. Please note that material related to exams, including review sheets and solutions guides, will *not* be available online.

*For other information about this course, such as grading policies, see the General Policies handout.*

**Suggested Readings:**

The following books provide material similar to much of what will be covered in class, and would be interesting supplements to class. They are not required, and will not be covered in class. Both are available on Amazon.com in relatively inexpensive paperback format.

- John Allen Paulos, *A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper* (Doubleday 1995).
- A. K. Dewdney, *200% of Nothing* (Wiley 1993).