

**Mathematics MATH 352, Fall 2009**  
**Problem Seminar**  
**Course Outline**

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Course content: This will vary from year to year, as this is a seminar. I expect to touch on combinatorics (finite, mostly, including counting, graph theory, etc., but likely a little set theory, too); basic algebra (linear and abstract, particularly involving polynomials); inequalities; functional equations (including recurrence relations); calculus-related material (especially calculation of funky limits, integrals and series); and so on. I intend to keep this open-ended.

Text: None. The book by Larson (which is?) will be a sort of semi-official text, and we can order copies once I know how many to get.

Notes will also be posted from time to time on WebCT. Unless otherwise indicated, *you are responsible for the contents of these notes.*

Method of evaluation: As this is a 1-credit, pass/fail seminar, your passing or failing will depend largely on participation. That is, if you are officially registered, I EXPECT YOU TO SHOW UP REGULARLY, AND GET INTO THE DISCUSSION.

At some point in late September (TBA), there will be a “mini-Putnam” exam; participation is required, but your mark will not be counted for evaluation.

You will also be required to produce a short written presentation of a group of problems about some topic. The WebCT notes will give you some idea of what I want; this can be discussed as the semester progresses.

I want to emphasize that **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED IN THIS SEMINAR TO ATTEND IT**, or any other Putnam-related activities. It is definitely **NOT** a requirement for writing the Putnam exam.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or French any written work that is to be graded.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other offences under the Code for Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).