

**Math 5902: Seminar and Practicum in the Teaching of College Mathematics**  
**MWF 11:30-12:20 in MSCS 445**

**Professor:** Chris Francisco

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**Office:** 401 Mathematical Sciences Building

**Office Phone:** (405) 744-8225 (rings Angie's line)

**Office Hours:** Mon., 10:30-11:20, Wed., 1:00-2:00 (in MLSC), Thurs., 1:30-3:00, and by appointment.

**Online Classroom (D2L) site:** <https://oc.okstate.edu> (then log in and find our course)

**Textbook:** Teaching Mathematics in Colleges and Universities: Case Studies for Today's Classroom, Graduate Student Edition, by Solomon Friedberg *et al.*

This course is designed to help prepare you to teach mathematics at the college level. It requires your active participation in class discussions, written assignments, sample teaching, conducting observations, and helping students with mathematics outside of class.

**Syllabus Attachment:** Please read the OSU syllabus attachment, available at <http://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/sites/default/files/Fall%202015%20Syllabus.pdf>. This has important information, including instructions about disability accommodations. Please contact me privately during the first week of the course if you need accommodations as a result of a disability.

**Grading:** I will compute your grade using the following weights: 40% from presentations in front of me or in front of the class, 30% from written assignments, 15% from participation in class discussions, and 15% from fulfilling obligations outside of class, including observing some lower-division classes and possibly doing some tutoring in the MLSC. Earning 90% guarantees an A for the semester, 80% a B, 70% a C, and 60% a D. I reserve the right to use discretion if you are on the borderline between two grades, considering improvement or decline during the semester, attendance, and my subjective judgment of your effort. You are required to complete FERPA and Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training in order to pass the class. (This is not an onerous requirement; you need to fulfill these apart from this course anyway.)

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. You are graduate students; you should not be missing class. You will lose 20% of your class participation grade for every unexcused absence beyond three. (See "Conflicts and absences" for a discussion of when an absence is excused.)

**Presentations:** Frequently, you will be asked to make short sample presentations in front of the class or in front of me. I am not necessarily looking for a polished presentation, especially early in the semester, but I am looking for evidence that you have thought carefully about the assignment, worked on mechanical issues relating to teaching, and have delivered something consistent with what I asked you to do. This is the activity most like actual teaching and what requires the most practice.

**Written assignments:** I will sometimes ask you to write brief responses to class discussions, critiques of presentations you or someone else made, or issues that arise in your observations and tutoring. Good communication is vital in teaching; you should write clearly and grammatically.

**Class discussions:** We will discuss teaching issues and case studies from the textbook frequently in class. I ask that everyone read any assigned material ahead of time and contribute regularly to these discussions.

**Outside obligations:** I will ask you to observe some lower-division classes and possibly talk with some lower-division instructors about how they run their classes. I may also ask you to do some tutoring at the MLSC. We will arrange for these hours to be at times convenient for you and for the MLSC.

**Conflicts and absences:** I will offer reasonable accommodation in the event that you miss a major assessment activity for a valid and documented reason, assuming documentation is provided **in advance unless absolutely impossible**. These are known as “excused absences.” If you won’t be in class when homework is due, turn it in early or give it to someone else to turn in prior to the deadline. I require proof of the reason for your absence (e.g., a doctor’s note, proof of involvement in an OSU-sponsored activity, etc.), and you should not assume you will be eligible for a make-up assessment unless I have explicitly approved your request.

**Academic Honesty:** Don’t cheat. Don’t copy off of other students, allow other students to copy your work, or present work you find in printed or electronic sources as your own. For questions, contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, (405) 744-5627, <http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu>. I deal with cheating very harshly; don’t take any chances.

Note: This is a graduate course that is intended to be helpful and, occasionally, fun. If you’re doing what you’re supposed to be doing and putting forth a reasonable effort, you won’t have to worry about any of the discussion above, but as we’ll discuss this semester, I have to spell things out in detail anyway.

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**First Assignment:** Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21.

1. Send me an e-mail at [chris.francisco@okstate.edu](mailto:chris.francisco@okstate.edu). Write me a **paragraph** (not a list) including your name, previous school, hometown, mathematical interests, what you want to do after grad school, and anything interesting about yourself you want to tell me. These e-mails let me know something about my students and help me get to know everyone. If you don’t get a reply from me within a day, I probably didn’t receive the e-mail; talk to me about it.
2. Go to <https://oc.okstate.edu> to log on to the Online Classroom (Desire2Learn). After logging in, you should see Math 5902 in your list of courses. Look at the course documents in the Content section, and find the Discussion board, which we may use at some point.
3. Find the syllabus attachment described above, and read it carefully.