

## **Math 666**

### **Seminar in Geometry**

### **Course Information**

#### **Course Description**

Geometry is one of the oldest human intellectual creations. Yet now in modern times, geometry is one of the most active fields of mathematical research and one of the critical tools in many practical applications. While a casual lay person might believe that there is only one geometry (Euclidean plane geometry), there are in fact many geometries, both practical and fanciful. Math 666 is a graduate course in geometry including axiomatic systems, geometric transformations and modern geometry. The broad purpose of the course is to expand understanding of the variety and importance of modern geometries. Several viewpoints for studying geometries will be considered.

Math 666 is web-based with an accompanying text. Math 666 is part of the Texas A&M University Masters in Mathematics with a Teaching Option under the auspices of the Texas A&M University Mathematics Department and Distance Education Program. The material in Math 666 is Copyright © 2001-2009 by Jon T. Pitts.

#### **Prerequisites**

Academic prerequisites for the course are consent of the instructor. Students who have questions about their course preparation are encouraged to contact Dr. Pitts (see Contact Information below).

The course is entirely web based. Students will wish to have ready access to a personal computer with access to the Internet, and normal peripheral hardware and software, including access to a printer and a reasonably modern browser and word processor. There will be some file sharing and adjustments may be required for compatibility.

#### **Text**

Math 666 (Seminar in Geometry) will be administered through Vista at Texas A&M University. There is an extensive (password protected) web site for Math 666 that will normally be accessed through Vista.

The text is *Modern Geometries, 5th ed.* by James R. Smart, Brooks/Cole, 1998, ISBN 0-534-35188-3. The text will be supplemented by other resources including web-based resources. The text can be purchased any place (locally or on the net) that stocks the 5th edition.

## Schedule

Math 666 is web-based. Course materials are available at all hours. Web based contact hours will be determined in consultation with the class. There are three sections to be taught as one course.

- Section 140: Web based for in-state, on-campus audience.
- Section 700: Web based for in-state, off-campus audience.
- Section 720: Web based for out-of-state/country, off-campus audience.

## Contact Information

Jon Pitts

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## Basis for Grading

The course grade will be based on graded written assignments, including regular homework assignment assignments and one or more papers, some potentially web-oriented. Students will often work in groups and submit work on that basis. Homework and papers will normally be submitted through Vista.

Course grades will be awarded as follows.

- A – Excellent performance in all aspects of the course.
- B – Satisfactory completion of all course requirements.
- C – Passing.

## Make-up Policy

Makeups are subject to university policy. In accordance with university regulations, make-ups for missed exams and assignments will be allowed only for a university approved excuse in writing. Whenever possible, students should inform the instructor before an work is missed.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Disability Services Office, in Room B118 of Cain Hall or call (979) 845-1637.

**Academic Integrity Statement**

*An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.* The Honor Council Rules and Procedures are available on the web at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.