

## SYLLABUS FOR MTH U117 – sequence A – spring 2008

### Instructors and Office Hours:

Professor Carla Oblas, 373- 4487, e-mail c.oblas@neu.edu, 532 Nightingale Hall  
Office hours: Mon and Thurs 10:30-11:30 and Wed 1:30-2:30, or by appointment.

**Course Objectives:** This course is designed to develop problem-solving skills while learning to apply mathematics to real life situations. Mathematical concepts to be studied: normal distribution and standard deviation; graphs of linear and non-linear functions, the concept of derivative, derivatives for exponential functions,  $e$ ; topics in probability, binomial distributions, central limit theorem, polling theory.

**Styles of Learning:** This course will make extensive use of collaborative groups, although grading will be based on individual work. It is designed for the student who enjoys hands-on activities, social interaction and pondering mathematical questions.

**Books:** *The Pit and The Pendulum*, *Small World*, and *Pollsters Dilemma*. Purchase packet at Gnomon Copy. You will need to bring the unit under investigation to class everyday.

**Materials:** A graphing calculator is required for this course equivalent to the TI 83. You will need to bring this to class everyday. You will need it by the second class meeting. You will also need graph paper.

**Attendance:** Daily attendance is required. Since emergencies may arise, students are allowed 3 absences. That is 3 absences **no matter what the reason**. Students who have more than three absences will be required to withdraw. **There are no make up tests. Do not miss a test!**

**Cell Phones:** Keep them turned off!

**Help:** Besides my office hours, assistance is available at the Math Tutoring Center in room 540 B Nightingale.

<b>Grading:</b> Daily Homework (due on time, 3 late accepted)	10%
Problems of the Week (POWs) (on time and typed)	20%
Portfolios (on time and typed)	20%
Tests	25%
Final	25%

### **Grading of POWs and Portfolios: (for an A or B has to be handed in on day due.)**

There will be a rubric given on the grading for each part of the POW write-up. Make sure you thoroughly address each part.

### **Grading of Tests**

96 – 100 A  
 92 - 95 A-  
 89 - 91 B+  
 86 – 88 B  
 83 - 85 B-  
 80 - 82 C+  
 77 - 79 C  
 75 - 76 C-  
 73 – 74 D+  
 71 - 72 D  
 69 – 70 D-  
 0 - 68 F

**Late Work:** Three late home works are allowed, but they must be presented before the portfolio is due. POWs and Portfolios are due on time, they will not be accepted more than one class meeting late. If your printer isn't working you can e-mail me the work or hand in a disk. If you are sick, you can e-mail me your work and hand in attachments when you return.

**Finals:** Our final is on April 18 at 3:30. No student will be given a request for a special final exam unless it is due to a registrar created conflict. Do not make travel plans that conflict with the final exam.

**Note:** It is your responsibility to be aware of any changes to this syllabus that are announced in class. Students are responsible for all information given when they are absent. If you have any concerns about the course that cannot be resolved with me, please see Prof. Martsinovsky, 373-5510. It is the University policy that no grade, including an incomplete, can be changed after one year. Exceptions must be authorized by the Academic Standing Committee.

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating will not be tolerated. All work submitted must be your own. If you get help from another individual on the POWs or portfolios, your write-up needs to be in your own words, and you must identify who you worked with. You will be randomly called on to explain your work, so if you get help, make sure you understand it. You must show how you got the answers for any work submitted. During exams, cell phones must be put away and you cannot share calculators.

Please refer to the University's policies on cheating and related disciplinary actions that are detailed in your Student Handbook. **Incidents of cheating will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs, which can lead to suspension or expulsion from the University.**

<u>CLASSWORK</u>	<u>HOMEWORK</u> <u>(due next class unless specified)</u>
Jan 7 Thee Unit Question for Pit and the Pendulum p. 2-5 Time is Relative p. 6 Your Pulse p. 6	a) Building a Pendulum p. 5 b) POW Moving Game Pieces p. 111-112 due Jan 17 c) Flipping Coins p.7
Jan 10 What's Rare p. 8-9 Normal Distribution and	a) Penny Weight p. 14

Feb 4 Unit Question for Small World How Many People? p 34-36	a) Eggs and Amebas p.36 b) POW
Feb 7 The Rescue p.37 On a Tangent p. 38-39	Doctor's Orders p.40 More On-A-tangent p. 41 POW Who Will win the Prize p. 92-93 due Oct 18
Feb 11 Exponential Slopes p.42	The Derivative of $x^2$ p.43
Feb 14 Find That Base! P.44 Logarithm Review p.45	Natural Logarithms p.46
Feb 21 Generalized Exponential Derivatives p. 47 California and Exponentsp.48	Instantaneous Rate of Change p. 49
Feb 25 Return to Small World Isn't It p. 50 Review Unit	Unit Portfolio p. 51 due March 13
Feb 28 Test	

March 10 Pollster's Dilemma; Sampling Seniors; p. 53-54	a) Pizza Combinations p. 55 b) Throw back the Little Ones p.56
March 13 Ice Cream Combinations and Permutations; p.57 Probability p.59	a) Combinations and Permutations in Sports p.58
March 17 Play Ball p. 60 The Theory of Three-Person Polls p. 62-63	a) More Probability p. 61 b) Graphs of the Theory p. 64
March 20 The Central Limit Theorem Graphing Distributions Normal Areas p. 66-72 Middletown Musings p. 73	More Musings p. 74
March 24 A Plus for the Community p.75 Mean and Standard Distribution for Probability Distribution p.76-77 The Search is ON! p.78-79	Putting Your Formulas to Work p 80 POW Let's Vote On It p. 113 due April 7
March 27 From Numbers to Proportion p.81 The Worst Case Scenario p. 82 P vs $\hat{p}$ p. 83 What Does It Mean? P. 85	Is Twice As Many Twice As Good? P.84

March 31 Pollster's Dilemma Revisited p.88 Review for test	
April 3 test	Portfolio p. 89 due April 14
April 7 POW presentations	
April 10 Review for final	
April 14 extra day for catch up	