

Nebraska Wesleyan University
Math 3600: Mathematical Problem Solving
Fall 2014

Instructor: Austin Mohr
Time: Th 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
Room: Olin 111
Office: Olin 109D
Office Hours: MWThF 10:00 am – 11:00 am, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (or by appointment)
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Course Website: AustinMohr.com/math3600
Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16 at 2:00 pm

Course Description

A seminar on problem solving skills and their application to nontrivial problems. Students will learn basic programming skills in Sage and use this knowledge to solve computational problems from Project Euler.

Participation

You will give an informal presentation to the class roughly every two weeks. Each presentation will introduce the class to a problem on which you have already started working. If you have obtained a correct solution already, you can present your algorithm and along with its code. If not, you can explain what you are trying to accomplish and precisely where you are stuck. Students who are not presenting will still be awarded participation points for being attentive, asking questions, offering suggestions, etc.

Problems

Sign up for a free Project Euler account (<http://www.projecteuler.net>) and draw from the list of problems on the website for submission. Each student must be working on a different problem, so email me when you have chosen a problem to reserve it. Problems # 1 – 10 cannot be selected (I will provide solutions for them). Up to four problems can be selected from # 11 – 100. Any additional problems should be chosen from #101 or above.

Grading

Your grade is determined by the number of problems you solve. Participating (presenting when requested and attending otherwise) in at least fourteen classes counts the same as solving a problem. Submitting a solid effort that was unable to produce a solution is worth half a problem.

| Problems | Grade |
|----------|-------|
| 8 | A |
| 6 – 7 | B |
| 4 – 5 | C |
| 2 – 3 | D |

Accommodations

Nebraska Wesleyan University seeks to maintain a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities. To ensure their equal access to all educational programs, activities, and services, federal law requires that students with disabilities notify the university, provide documentation, and request reasonable accommodations. If you need accommodation in this course, please notify me so that I can verify that the required documentation is filed with the Academic Affairs Office and that your accommodation plan is in place. You should also meet with Prof. Sandy McBride, the Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator (Old Main 126, 465-2346, smcbride@nebrwesleyan.edu).

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the basic principles of a university community. Nebraska Wesleyan University encourages and expects the highest standards of academic honesty from all students. The Student Code of Conduct states that “cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty” are subject to disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for additional information. Academically dishonest students may receive penalties up to and including receiving an F in the course.