

["FRESHMAN ORIENTATION" \(MAT099-01-FA09\)](#) > ANNOUNCEMENTS

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VIEW LAST 7 DAYS

VIEW LAST 30 DAYS

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## All Announcements



### **Important Notice Regarding Blackboard Testing & myGate Time-out Issue**

Posted by: Sheri Riddle

Students taking tests or quizzes in Blackboard should close all open browsers except the one containing the Blackboard Test/Quiz. This includes the browser used to access the link from within myGate. Users have reported being locked out of their tests because of the myGate session time-out box popping up during the test. To avoid this, simply close the browser containing myGate after logging into Blackboard.



### **Tue, Nov 17, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 11/17/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

Today was our last regular class meeting for the semester. Evaluations for the course were administered at the beginning of class, then there were some announcements and you all worked together on the brain-teaser problems.

Don't forget to meet your advisor and turn in the "met with advisor" form by the week of Tues Dec 1.

Those of you with perfect attendance (or who have made up your absences) will not have to attend the "make-up" meeting on Tues Dec 1.

Those of you with absences to be made up will have to attend the make-up class meeting on Tues Dec 1. Some of you with more than one absence to make up will have to solve additional brain-teaser problems. :-)

There's no class next Tuesday -- so enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. For all of you I hope you finish the semester strong.



### **Tue, Nov 10, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 11/10/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

Today's class was a continuation of the theme of understanding some aspects of mathematical thinking through mathematical recreations. With the card and pennies tricks earlier in the semester, we saw how simple mathematical principles can help explain what at first appear to be some puzzling phenomena. Our work with Zome tools some weeks ago was meant to emphasize the role of making and finding patterns in mathematics. And with the Instant Insanity blocks game and the pennies games, today we saw how sometimes a good approach to solving a problem is to solve a simpler problem, and build up a solution to the harder problem from there.

I did leave you with TWO HW ASSIGNMENTS. I'm not kidding about that... but they're very easy.

- (1) Meet with your advisor and get them to sign the form provided in the course documents part of the class Blackboard page. Do this by Tues December 1.
- (2) Solve three of the problems from the brainteasers handout (also in course docs). Do this by this coming Tues November 17! I plan for us to have class time to talk through some of these, so if you don't have much time to devote to these problems... no worries.

This coming Tuesday is our last regular class meeting of the semester. Class on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving is cancelled. And class on Tues Dec 1 can be used as one of your make-ups, for those of you who have absences to make up.

There are many of you I need to talk this Tuesday about your attendance situation... so plan to be there. Understanding the unusually difficult semester we've had in terms of illnesses, I will be flexible. Still, absences do have to be made up, so we'll need to talk about that.



**Tue, Nov 03, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 11/03/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

I hope the discussion of mathematics degree programs was helpful. I know you got blitzed with a lot of information, but hopefully you also have a better idea of some of the things to look out for and where to go when you're not sure about something.

We'll be back in FH 302 for class on Nov 10 at 3:30.

On Monday Nov 9 at 3:30 PM in Biology room 1119, there will be a talk on "A mathematical model for cholera" by Elsa Shaefer of Marymount Univ. I encourage you all to attend. I would attend but I have another meeting at that time. If you attend, be sure to sign a sign-in sheet.

That is one opportunity to make up a MAT 099 absence. There is another opportunity on Tues Nov 10 at 4:30. Dr Roach will begin filming a Math Club movie for this year, and Tues he's filming a fight scene. If you are interested in this, I can get you more information; send me an email and I'll be back in touch on Monday. Last year's Math Club movie created something of a local stir, you can view it on Youtube, search for "The Zero Matrix".



**Tue, Oct 27, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 10/27/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

OK, well I hope Career Fun Day was informative... and at least a little bit fun :-). Our discussion of career ideas was brief, but hopefully gave you the sense that there are a lot of possibilities for using mathematics in the world. If you'd like to talk more about this on an individual basis, I and/or your advisor would be happy to talk with you.

I'll see you back in FH 302 next Tues Nov 3.

Some career info online:

As you'll recall, I also showed you a nice web resource for exploring some of what you can do with a math degree. It is: <http://www.ams.org/employment>. If you check it out, look at the "Early career profiles" and "Jobs sites for math majors" links on that page.

For some general online resources for undergraduates (graduate school, summer programs, future employment possibilities), you might check out the following webpage of the American Mathematical Society: <http://www.ams.org/employment/undergrad.html>

For information about actuarial science as a career, you could check out:

<http://www.beanactuary.org/>

(Here you'll find links to the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society, the two major actuary societies in the U.S.)

I think Operations Research would be an interesting direction for a math major to go.

This might require some graduate study, but to me it's the best of both worlds -- attractive mathematics and good job possibilities.

This is a link to a big Ops Research Society called INFORMS (The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences):

<http://www.informs.org/>

Here's a link to The Science of the Better, a website explaining Ops Research:

<http://www.scienceofbetter.org/>

**Tue, Oct 20, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 10/20/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

Thanks to our guest panelists (Glenna Buford, Whitney Coyle, Brooke Phillips, Lurne Schmidt, and Meredith Stevenson) for discussing their experiences as math majors, both within the curriculum and outside the classroom. I hope the information was helpful to you.

Next week we'll be back in FH 302... see you then.

**Wed, Oct 14, 2009 -- Blog for Wed 10/14/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

OK, well sorry about the weather. Hopefully those of you who joined us at Matt B's enjoyed the pizza and the fellowship.

Next week Tues Oct 20 we'll be back indoors -- it's a little easier that way I guess. We'll have some student guests, hopefully it will be informative.

Also, this Friday Oct 16 at 2:30 in FH 309 is a special guest speaker who'll be talking about Biostatistics. This might be a career path that would interest some of you. The speaker is a Murray State graduate. And, for those who attend there will be \*\*\*free Matt B's pizza afterward.\*\*\* For those of you who have absences to make up, this is one way to do that!

**Tue, Oct 13, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 10/13/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

I was getting ready to spend a lot of \$\$ on supplies for the cookout and got gun-shy because it looks very likely we'll have cold rain this afternoon. So officially class is cancelled for today -- and no cookout. But, you are invited to join me and Dr Roach and Dr Adongo and some Math Clubbers at Matt B's Main Street Pizza (across the street from Sparks Hall) at 3:45 PM for a slice of pizza and a Coke, on us. After that, those who are interested can join us for bowling at Corvette Lanes. I'm very sad about the cookout, but looking forward to pizza and bowling.

**Tue, Oct 06, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 10/06/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

I hope you enjoyed today's Zome tool activity. At least you can now credibly claim to have seen a cube-shaped bubble. We'll do more things with Drs. Adongo and Roach and the Math Club as the semester progresses.

Next week we're going to try again for the cookout between Springer and Franklin. Meet there unless I tell you otherwise... be looking for an email and Blackboard communication from me in case there's the possibility (again) for bad weather.

**Mon, Oct 05, 2009 -- GO TO FH 108 ON TUESDAY OCT 6!**

Posted by: rob donnelly

The weather indeed looks iffy enough that we're postponing the MAT 099 / Math Club cookout/games event until next Tuesday Oct 13.

For Tuesday Oct 6, go to FH 108, where we have another activity planned.

**Tue, Sep 29, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 09/29/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

Today we had three guest speakers: Jennifer Dickey from the Study Abroad office in Woods Hall, CPT Jonathan Ballard from the ROTC program in Blackburn Hall, and Thomas Kronen from the URSA (Undergrad Research and Scholarly Activity) office in Wells Hall. Perhaps the info they shared about opportunities outside the classroom planted a seed and will be something you keep in mind as you move along here at Murray State.

Next week is the 11th Annual MAT 099 / Math Club cookout/games event. We'll meet at the sand volleyball court beside Franklin Residential College at 3:30. In case of iffy

weather, check Blackboard and email for announcements about the alternative indoor location.

**Tue, Sep 22, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 09/22/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

I hope you enjoyed hearing some of Dr. Gibson's perspective on secondary certification as well as on life as a mathematics student at Murray State. The class discussion was great, and I think Dr. Gibson left us with a lot to think about.

See you all next week back in FH 302.

**Tue, Sep 15, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 09/15/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

Hope you enjoyed the Scavenger Hunt today... I thought you guys did a great job. We'll have some awards next week to recognized the distinguished performances! See you next Tuesday at 3:30 PM in FH 302.

**Tue, Sep 08, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 09/08/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

I hope you enjoyed our little "field trip" to the computer lab. We were a little cramped for space, but I hope you got some feeling for the math computer lab environment and what's available there, and got some sense of how Maple works. (The Maple worksheet I handed out is available in course docs.)

Next week: Bring your walkin' shoes... and an umbrella if it's raining.

**Tue, Sep 01, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 09/01/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

I hope you enjoyed our Math Diversions day. Congratulations to those of you who figured out the card trick... can you show why it works mathematically?? And congratulations to those of you who figured out the Instant Insanity block stacking game. Alas, the pennies trick didn't quite go as planned the first time through... your task for next time is to see if you can figure out what's going on there. See you next Tuesday Sept 8... have a safe Labor Day weekend.

**Tue, Aug 25, 2009 -- Blog for Tues 08/25/09**

Posted by: rob donnelly

I hope you enjoyed the first class meeting -- or at least half of it, so we've met the quota of the class being at least 50% enjoyable. Today we basically got to know one another, talked a little about the course, and I did a card trick. Good times, see you on Tues Sept 1.

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