

# MATH 102X-01

## Syllabus Fall 2021

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Colin Starr	<b>Office Hours*:</b>	MWF 10:20-11:10, 1-2
<b>Office:</b>	Ford 213		TH 9-10
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<b>Home Phone:</b>	(503) 585-4088		Others by appointment or chance
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\* Only MWF 10:20-11:10 office hours are held in person; all others will be via Zoom.

There is no required text for this course. I recommend PUTNAM MATH COMPETITION 1938-1964, PUTNAM MATH COMPETITION 1965-1984, and/or PUTNAM MATH COMPETITION 1985-2000, or the three-volume set. All are available from the MAA, [www.maa.org](http://www.maa.org). Note that the problems and solutions are available elsewhere, so it is not necessary to purchase any of these unless you want your own reference.

There are problems and solutions for various competitions, including the Putnam Exam, online. They are pretty easy to find; we will use one in class regularly.

**Goals:** This is a course in mathematical problem-solving. You will learn strategies for approaching problems from out of context (that is, not at “the end of the section”) and in diverse settings (number theory, complex analysis, calculus, graph theory, probability, geometry, ...).

**Class expectations:** I will provide a problem each class period. We will spend some time thinking about it individually, and then come together to brainstorm a solution. I will select a student to be at the board for the brainstorming. Once we think we have a solution, we will draft a formal write-up.

Note that there are no exams. Your grade in this class is based solely on participation.

If you have special needs (e.g., for a documented disability), it is your responsibility to approach me at least a day in advance of the need for accommodation. To receive accommodation, you must be registered with Disability Services; this office is located in Bishop Health Center in Baxter Hall. (Phone: (503) 370-6471.)

My door is usually open. The office hours above are the times I will definitely be in my office (or nearby), but you are welcome to come by at other times as well. Make sure you come see me whenever you have a question.