

Course Syllabus

MATH 399: Mathematics Colloquium III

- Description:** *Students are required to attend sessions of MATH 499 and participate in activities related to mathematics that take place outside of the classroom. Examples include attending a mathematics conference, participating in service learning opportunities, or taking the national Putnam exam. Potential activities are assigned points, and students must attain a certain minimum number of points before the completion of this course to receive credit.*
- Credit Hours:** 1
- Frequency:** Offered every semester
- Audience:** Required for mathematics majors in the sequence MATH 199, 299, 399, 499.
- Prerequisites:** MATH 299 and at least junior standing
- Format:** One 50-minute seminar per week
- Textbook:** None
- Technology:** Course material is maintained in Blackboard.
- AARC:** The Access and Accommodations Resource Center (AARC) is the campus office that works with students to provide access and accommodations in cases of diagnosed mental or emotional health issues, attentional or learning disabilities, vision or hearing limitations, chronic diseases, or allergies. You can contact the office at aarc@valpo.edu or 219.464.5206. Students who need, or think they may need, accommodations due to a diagnosis, or who think they have a diagnosis, are invited to contact AARC to arrange a confidential discussion with the AARC office. Further, students who are registered with AARC are required to contact their professor(s) if they wish to exercise the accommodations outlined in their letter from the AARC.
- Notice of Cancellation:** Notifications of class cancellations will be made through Blackboard with as much advance notice as possible. It will be both posted on Blackboard and sent to your Valpo e-mail address. If you don't check your Valpo email account regularly or have it set-up to be forwarded to your preferred email account, you may not get the message. Please check Blackboard and your Valpo email (or the e-mail address it forwards to) before coming to class.

Student Learning Objectives:

- A. Students will experience and participate in activities related to mathematics which take place outside of the classroom.
- B. Students will be exposed to mathematical topics beyond those routinely encountered in the classroom.
- C. Students will reflect on their participation in activities related to mathematics.

Topics & Performance Requirements Include (but are not limited to):

1. having the opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities related to mathematics.
2. taking part in co-curricular activities related to mathematics.
3. attending a weekly colloquium open to participation by all faculty and students.
4. recording and reflecting on their participation in mathematical activities.
5. investigating a topic or topics of interest and beginning preparations for their MATH 499 presentation.

Section Syllabus - Fall 2017

MATH 399: Mathematics Colloquium III

Time & Place: Fridays 3:30-4:20 pm, Gellersen 120

Coordinator: Tiffany Kolba
Office: Gellersen 114
Email: tiffany.kolba@valpo.edu
Phone: 219-464-6022

Grading: The course is graded based upon completion of co-curricular activities, using the following scale:

≥10 points	A
9 points	A-
8 points	B+
7 points	B
6 points	B-
5 points	C+
4 points	C
3 points	C-
0-2 points	F

When you complete a co-curricular activity, you should record it in your colloquium folder as soon as possible. In addition, you must have the faculty member who supervised the activity provide his or her initials on the record for verification. **All co-curricular activities must be completed by the final meeting of the semester.** See the “Mathematics Co-curricular Activities Point System” handout for more information.

In addition, adequate attendance and completion of preparations for MATH 499 are required in order to pass the course. Inadequate attendance or incomplete MATH 499 preparations will result in failure in the course, regardless of the status of the completed co-curricular activities. See below for more information about each of these components.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory; more than two absences (excused or unexcused) will result in failure in the course. Attendance will be taken through the weekly entry in your colloquium journal. For each talk, you will write a four sentence summary in your journal, or if you asked a question at the end of the talk, you can recap the speaker’s response to your question in lieu of the summary. A missing entry in your colloquium journal will be considered as an absence. In addition, being discourteous or unprofessional during a presentation will result in a half-day absence. The following count as being discourteous/unprofessional: texting, sleeping, doing other work, talking, or anything else other than paying attention to the talk.

MATH 499 Preparations: You are required to complete the following two assignments to prepare for your MATH 499 presentation and paper:

- Pick a topic and advisor for your 499 presentation/paper and get the appropriate signatures. Turn in the topic approval form to the MATH 399 coordinator.

Due: Friday, November 3 (Week 11)

- Write a short list of annotated references for your 499 presentation/paper and email to the MATH 399 coordinator. An annotated reference is one that includes a summary and a reason for why/how the reference will be used. It is okay if you modify your list of references during the semester in which you take 499.

Due: Friday, December 8 (Week 15)

Honor Code: Students are expected to uphold the University Honor Code (*"I have neither given or received, nor have I tolerated others' use of, unauthorized aid."*). The weekly summaries in your colloquium journal should be written individually; nothing is authorized aid. For the MATH 499 preparations, anything and anyone is authorized aid. However, you should write up the assignments individually in your own words.