

New Courses This Fall!

Math 1230: *The Big Ideas of Mathematics*

Taught by Professor Paul Gartside

Math 1231: *Math Education Internship*

Taught by Professor Beverly Michael

These two new courses offered by the University of Pittsburgh Math Department will provide a 'capstone' experience for undergraduate math or science students. They may be of particular interest to students interested in the history of math, the psychology of math learning, or in mathematics education.

Math 1230 will develop some of the 'big ideas of mathematics' from a historical perspective. It will explore such questions as:

- What is mathematics?
- How did various strands of math (algebra, geometry, analysis etc.) start and develop?
- How did the characteristic thinking processes of mathematics (proof, abstraction, axiomatization etc.) arise?
- How do mathematicians create new mathematics and apply their discoveries to practical problems?

Math 1231 will have two components. First, an opportunity to give the student a taste of math education by leading a high school student through a math research project. Second, weekly seminars will investigate how the issues raised in the 'Big Ideas' course are reflected in school math curricula.

Math 1230 • CRN 40200 • MWF 3-4pm • 3 credits

Math 1231 • CRN 40205 • Wed 4-5pm • 1 credit

Prerequisites: 0430, 0420 or 0450, 1180 or 1185.

The internship 1231 is optional but can only be taken in conjunction with 1230.

The state of Pennsylvania now requires that all high school math teachers have a course in the history of mathematics and the School of Education has changed its requirements to reflect this.

For further information contact:

Professor Paul Gartside gartside@math.pitt.edu

Professor Beverly Michael bkm@pitt.edu