SYLLABUS
Math 494/641, Fall 2007

Time: W 7:20 - 10:00PM
Place: Science and Tech. I, Room 242
Instructor: Walter Morris
Office: Science and Tech. I, Room 255
Phone: 993-1481
Office Hours: MW 2:30 - 2:50, 4:30 - 5:00, W 5:10 - 7:10
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This course is an introduction to Graph Theory and Combinatorics. The courses Math 125 and 325 are not prerequisites for this course. Our course will duplicate some of the material in those courses, but most of what we cover will be new to people who have taken 125 and 325. The homework assignments will require the students to write proofs, so any experience with upper level Mathematics courses will be useful.

The course is divided into three parts: Graph Theory, Enumeration, and advanced topics. The Graph Theory and Enumeration parts will cover what is generally expected to be known by someone who has taken a Combinatorics course at this level. We can look at other topics once we have covered these basics.

The text is A Course in Combinatorics, by van Lint and Wilson, published by Cambridge University Press. My plan is to cover Chapters 1,2,3,4,5 and 7 for the Graph Theory part of the course, Chapters 10, 13,14 and 15 for the Enumeration part, and a selection from Chapters 6,16,17,31,32,33 for the last part of the course.

Tentative test dates for the first two parts of the course are September 26 and October 31. Each of these tests counts for 25% of the grade. The final exam is cumulative, and it is on December 12. The final exam determines 30% of the grade. The remaining 20% of the grade comes from weekly homework assignments. You can drop the lowest homework score, but I do not accept late homework.

There is no class on Thanksgiving week.

Feel free to come to my office if you have any questions. I check my e-mail daily, so you can also ask questions that way. Be certain that you understand all of the homework assigned and all of the assigned reading, and that you ask questions in or out of class in order to clear up any problems you might have. Bear in mind that the questions that you ask in class help not only you, but also the professor and all of the others who had the same questions but were afraid to speak up.