Putnam Problem Solving (MATH 476)
Fall Quarter, 2003

Time/Place: F 2:00-2:50 p.m. KRH LEC

Instructor: Jonathan Duncan (duncjo@wwc.edu)
Office: Kretchmar Hall 330, phone: 527-2097
Office Hours: 10:00 T, 11:00 R, 1:00 MWF, or by appointment


Webpage: http://math.wwc.edu/courses/476/

Topics in this course include problem solving with emphasis on both oral and written communication. The course prepares students for the William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition. The deadline for withdrawing from the course is Tuesday 18 November.

Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will have:

1. presented clear and accurate proofs to fascinating mathematical problems in written and oral format.
2. prepared for and competed in the 2003 William Lowell Putnam mathematical competition.

The following requirements encourage and measure the successful completion of these objectives.

Attendance (O2)
In preparation for the competition, we will review and present solutions each Friday afternoon. It is important that participants attend these practice sessions both to hone their own skills, and to assist their classmates.

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Presentation (O1)
As a part of the course, each student will be required to present at least one problem and solution. Ideally, the solution will be original, but solutions from outside sources are also acceptable. The solution must be both presented on the board and submitted in written form.

Exam (O2)
Students must participate in the exam. This requires that they be in the company of math professors for the entire day on Sabbath, 6 December. Take heart—many find this experience to be quite entertaining, and free food is involved.

Grades
The course is graded Satisfactory or No Credit. In order to receive a satisfactory grade, students must attend at least 6 of the 8 preparatory sessions, present at least one solution, and take the exam.

Disabilities
Students with a physical and/or learning disability who require accommodations should contact the instructor or Disability Support Services at 527-2366. This syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request.