18.304 Undergraduate Seminar in Discrete Mathematics

Tuesdays & Thursday 11am – 12:30pm
Building 2, Room 132

Instructor: Sami Assaf, 2-378, ext. 8-6721 [e-mail removed]
Office Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays 2pm – 3:30pm and by appointment

Course Goals:
The purpose of this course is to give you experience reading, writing and presenting results in mathematics. There is no fixed set of topics to be covered, instead students may choose from a broad selection of topics within discrete mathematics.

Requirements:
- Give at least 3 presentations on some topic(s) in discrete mathematics, at least one of which must be based on a research paper published in a mathematics journal.
- Submit an abstract and before each of your presentations, and provide possible quiz questions after your presentation.
- Write three quizzes based on the content of the presentations.
- Write a term paper of approximately 10 pages on a topic in discrete mathematics.
- Do not fall asleep during someone else’s (or your own!) presentation.

Important Dates:
Thu 10/14 Deadline for first presentation.
Tue 10/19 Quiz 1
Tue 11/02 Term paper topic must be selected and approved.
Thu 11/04 Deadline for second presentation.
Tue 11/09 Quiz 2
Thu 11/18 First draft of term paper due.
Tue 11/30 Second draft of term paper due (if required).
Tue 12/07 Deadline for third presentation.
Thu 12/09 Quiz 3
Thu 12/09 Final draft of term paper due.

Grading Policy:
Grades are based on the quality of your presentations (40%), quizzes (15%), term paper (30%), and participation (15%).