

North Carolina State University
Department of Mathematics

Syllabus for MA 494

A. Course Coordinator: Alina Duca

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Class meeting times: Arranged

How to register in MA 494 – fill out the [course agreement](#) and submit it to SAS 2108.

B. Course Co-requisites:

Students are required to choose a topic for their major paper from another MA class at the 400-level or above taken concurrently with this class. The companion class must be chosen before registering for MA 494, and the instructor of the companion course must agree to be the student's mentor for the topics (and depth of explanation) for the major paper.

The instructor of the companion course and the instructor for MA 494 will often be the same person, but this is not required.

C. GER Designation:

This course does not satisfy the Math GER.

D. Goals and Learning Outcomes:

Goals: This course introduces students to one or more forms of writing used in scientific and research environments. Students are required to take a companion math course at the 400-level or above, and adapt writing assignment(s) to the topics in the companion course. Instruction covers all phases of the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, and critiquing other people's work). Emphasis is placed on organizing for the needs of a variety of readers; concise, clear expression.

Learning Outcomes:

1. identify audiences for technical papers,
2. recognize and construct effective arguments,
3. write with precision, clarity, and appropriateness of expression,

These outcomes and goals will be accomplished using electronic media to create and revise documents.

E. Textbook Information:

The Handbook of Writing for the Mathematical Sciences, N. J. Higham, 2nd edition, published by SIAM (ISBN 0-89871-314-5). \$33.95

“Writing Mathematics Well”, A Manual for Authors, L. Gillman, published by the Mathematical Association of America (ISBN 0-88385-443-0). \$8.00

F. Organization and Scope:

Reading Assignments, Graded Materials, etc.

Weeks 1-3

Read Higham, Chapters 1-4

Explore topics with the teacher of the companion course

Weeks 4-5

Read Higham, Chapters 6-7

Identify the topics and audience for the paper

Weeks 6-7

Complete an Outline of the structure of the manuscript. Submit the design for comments.

Weeks 8-9

Utilize the comments on the Outline to generate the first draft of the body of the paper. Submit Draft 1 for comments to the MA 494 instructor.

Weeks 10-11

Create Draft 2 of the body, utilizing the comments from Draft 1. Submit Draft 2 to both the MA 494 instructor and the instructor of the companion course.

Weeks 12-13

Add a conclusion and abstract to the manuscript. Revise and resubmit the manuscript to the instructors.

Week 14

Revise and resubmit, as needed.

G. How Grades Are Determined:

The grades are S or U. Students earn an S for completing their major paper with the quality of writing approved by the instructor of this course. Writing the paper involves a number of revisions. Extra revisions may be required to achieve the quality expected by the instructor of MA 494 and the instructor of the companion course.

H. Policy on Incomplete Grades and Late Assignments:

Late assignments are permitted at the discretion of the instructor.

I. Policy on Attendance, Excused Absences, Missed Work:

Students are required to meet with the instructor at times agreeable to both the instructor and the student.

J. Academic Integrity:

1. Students are expected to follow university guidelines available at http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php

and,

2. Students are expected to follow the NCSU Honor Pledge "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment." It is the understanding and expectation that a student's signature on any test or assignment means that the student neither gave nor received unauthorized aid.

K. Students With Disabilities:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653 http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss/. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the [Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php) (http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php).

L. Statement on Lab Safety:

N/A

M. Statement on Extra Expenses:

There are no charges or fees beyond the purchase of your textbooks.

N. Statement on Transportation:

There are no field trips for this course.