

More Fun in FUNdamental Mathematics

The goal of this course is to engage participants in a novel approach to understanding and appreciating the mystery and beauty of mathematics. It is predicated upon the notion that historical context matters if we wish to get at the important backstories of important mathematical ideas. For example, irrational numbers came crashing through the otherwise orderly world of Pythagoras of Samos with unexpected results. Notions of both “countable” and “uncountable infinities” further rocked mathematical complacency. Quite recently, fractal geometry brought chaos to an unsuspecting world!

Lessons will hopefully be entertaining as well as enlightening. Rather than relying solely upon algebraic or other traditional symbolic notations, visual representations of mathematical ideas will be used whenever possible. Participant questions are welcomed at every turn as we develop a community of genuine inquiry, and topics will be expected to evolve as participant interests help drive the progress of our study. I believe that there is no mathematical cul-de-sac not worth exploring!

