

Still More Fun in FUNdamental Mathematics

Course Description

The goal of this course is to engage participants in a novel approach to understanding and appreciating the myriad mysteries of mathematics. It is predicated upon the belief that historical context matters if we wish to get at the backstories of important mathematical ideas. For example, irrational numbers came crashing through the well-ordered world of Pythagoras of Samos with unexpected results. More recently, proofs of smaller and larger infinities further rocked mathematical complacency. Toward the end of the twentieth century, fractal geometry brought "chaos" to an unsuspecting world!

Classes will be entertaining as well as enlightening. Rather than relying primarily upon algebraic notation, visual as well as physical representations of mathematical concepts will be used whenever possible. Participant contributions will be welcomed at every turn as we develop a community of genuine inquiry. Topics will evolve as participant interests help drive the progress of our study. Mathematical applications to both the natural world as well as the built environment will be included whenever possible. I believe that there are no mathematical byways not worth exploring!

Weekly Layout: