

Putnam Team Seminar

POLICIES/SYLLABUS

Instructor: Eric Moorhouse, Ross Hall 6³ = 216,
<https://ericmoorhouse.org>, email moorhous@uwyo.edu.

Meets: M 1:10–3:00pm in RH 308.

Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in Math 2200 and Math 2205.



Resources: There is no required textbook. I will provide weekly practice problem sets. See the official exam website <https://maa.org/putnam/> for additional practice problems. All your undergraduate mathematics textbooks will be useful resources for the relevant mathematical techniques; but the primary requirement for doing well is clever thinking.

Office Hours: MWF 10:00–10:50am; T 2:30–3:50pm in my office RH 216. In addition to my regularly scheduled office hours, please feel free to see me at other times, either by appointment or at other times if I am not busy. Office hours are subject to change with or without notice, so you are advised to check my current schedule and availability posted at <https://ericmoorhouse.org/schedule.html>.

Grading:

This is a 2-credit S/U course. The requirement for a satisfactory credit (S) is regular participation in the course AND in the 86th annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematics competition on Saturday, December 6, 2025. There is no passing or failing grade on the exam, and no particular level of performance is required, only participation.

Homework:

Practice problem sets will be distributed weekly. These will be distributed in class, and made available on WyoCourses. We will spend class time discussing problems of interest. Moreover, students are encouraged to practice writing up solutions and posting them through WyoCourses where I will make comments (without assigning actual grades).

MATH 2850 Course Website:

Course-related announcements, links, handouts, etc. will be posted at the course website <https://ericmoorhouse.org/courses/2850/> (not to be confused with WyoCourses).

Students with Disabilities: If you have a physical, learning or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability, to the University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, Knight Hall 330, phone 766-6189.

Academic Freedom and Institutional Discrimination: UW Regulation 2-15 on Academic Freedom states, “Academic freedom in teaching protects the rights of Academic Personnel to teach according to their expertise. Academic Personnel are entitled to freedom in discussing their subject. Academic Personnel have a responsibility to ensure that their teaching is effective and consistent with the standards of the discipline, understanding that disciplines may have diverse points of view on any given subject. Teaching may involve controversial material; however, with academic freedom in the classroom, Academic Personnel also have the responsibility to respect others’ freedom to express disagreement and alternative opinions.” Additionally, “Academic freedom does not negate the rights of students and the public to disagree with Academic Personnel’s work, although students are expected to learn material with which they may disagree.” Also adopted by UW in its Academic Freedom policy, “Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.”

Green Dot Program at UW: Here at The University of Wyoming, we are committed to reducing and preventing power-based personal violence such as sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. Green Dot is a bystander intervention program to reduce these forms of violence with one thought: If everyone does one thing, no one will have to do everything. A Green Dot is your choice at any moment to make campus safer by promoting safety for everyone and letting others know that you will not tolerate violence. A Green Dot is any behavior, choice, word or attitude that sends a clear message that (1) Violence is not okay with you; and (2) Everyone is expected to do their part. Additional information on Green DOT training and resources are available at <https://www.uwyo.edu/greendot/>

Duty to Report: UW faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty member MUST report information you share about the incident to the university's Title IX Coordinator (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to offer privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may find info about UW policy and resources at <https://www.uwyo.edu/reportit>

Syllabus Changes: This syllabus is subject to change. Updates to this syllabus will appear electronically on the course website, and you will be alerted by email.