

**Instructor:** Kurt Cogswell

**Contact Information:** Harding Hall 101, 605-688-6196, [kurt.cogswell@sdstate.edu](mailto:kurt.cogswell@sdstate.edu)

**Office Hours:** MWF 8:00 - 10:00

**Course Description:** An overview of the SDSU Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the mathematics profession, careers in mathematics, and effective techniques for pursuing such careers. 1 credit, fall semester only. Prerequisite - permission of department.

**Course Goals:** This course is designed to get new mathematics majors thinking seriously about their educational and professional goals and choices.

**Course Meeting Time and Location:** TuTh 8:00 - 8:50, September 3<sup>rd</sup> in USU 263 Prairie Lounge; September 8<sup>th</sup> – October 29<sup>nd</sup> in SSO (Solberg) 102.

**Evaluation Procedures:** This course is S/U graded. Grade will be based on attendance, participation, and final paper/presentation.

**Text:** None

**ADA Statement:** If you are a person with a disability that can be accommodated in a way that will enhance learning, please communicate with me about accommodations or contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at 688-4504.

**Academic Freedom and Responsibility Statement:** Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. 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. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should first contact the instructor of the course to initiate a review of the evaluation. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the department head and/ or dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

### Semester Schedule

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| September 1 | No meeting   |
| 3           | Freshmen meet Math/Stat Dept faculty (meet in USU 263 Prairie Lounge; refreshments provided)   |
| 8           | Getting the most value out of your time as an SDSU math major.   |
| 10          | An overview of the SDSU Math/Stat Dept: curriculum, faculty, advising, staying informed, Exit Exam...                                    |
| 15          | An overview of the mathematics profession: professional societies, national issues, government and mathematics , society and mathematics |
| 17          | Overview of Math/Stat Dept career tracks   |
| 22          | Speaker(s): Mathematics Education career track   |
| 24          | No meeting   |
| 29          | Speaker(s): Financial Engineering career track;  |
| October 1   | Speaker(s): Computational Science career track; double majoring or non-math/stat minors  |
| 6           | Speaker(s): Entrepreneurship as a career or career component   |
| 8           | Speaker(s): Statistics career track  |
| 13          | Discussion of career tracks; choose paper/presentation topic; schedule presentations   |
| 15, 20      | No meeting; work on paper/presentation   |
| 22, 27, 29  | Presentations.   |
| November 3  | Presentations. Papers due; submit via email.   |
| 5 - 26      | No meetings; papers read, graded, and returned.  |
| December 1  | Presentations. Student opinion survey. Student input on department.  |