

18.304 Undergraduate Seminar in Discrete Mathematics

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 12pm – 1pm
Building 2, Room 132

COURSE SYLLABUS

Lecturer:

Sami Assaf, 4-182, ext. 8-6895, sassaf@math.mit.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays & Fridays 3pm – 4pm and *by appointment*

Course Goals:

The main purpose of this course is to give you experience reading, writing and presenting results in mathematics. There is no fixed set of topics that will be covered, but rather students will have the option to choose from a broad selection of topics within discrete mathematics.

Requirements:

- Give at least **3 presentations** on some topic(s) in discrete mathematics. At least one of your talks should be based on a research paper published in a reputable mathematics journal.
- Complete periodic **homework assignments** designed to prepare you for upcoming presentations; late homework will not be accepted.
- Write **3 short (1–2 pages) summaries** of presentations from this class (and, for extra credit, summarize a talk from an MIT seminar on Combinatorics or Probability).
- Write a **term paper** of approximately 10 pages on a topic in discrete mathematics.
- **Do not fall asleep** during someone else's (or your own!) presentation.

Important Dates:

Fri	3/06	Each student must have given at least one presentation.
Sat	3/14	π Day.
Wed	4/08	Term paper topic must be selected and approved.
Wed	4/22	First draft of term paper due.
Fri	5/01	Second draft of term paper due.
Mon	5/11	Final draft of term paper due.

Grading Policy:

Grades are based on the quality of your presentations (33%), term paper (33%), summaries and homework (25%) and class participation (9%).