

Course Information - NATS1101 - FALL 2013

- **Thursdays 2.30pm -3.20pm, GR3.302**
- **Contact: V. Ramakrishna, FO 2.408C**
- email: **vish@utdallas.edu**; Campus Extension: 6873
- **elearning:** All announcements, material etc., for this course will be on elearning. Make sure this course shows up on your end of elearning.
- **Office Hours: Thursdays 1.00pm - 2.00pm and by Appointment.** Students are welcome to use **other times to meet me.** But to avoid potential conflicts they should i) send me an email exactly a day in advance; ii) if wishing to meet me on Mondays leave voicemail (not email) for me on the Sunday before at my campus extension (6873). Both the email and voicemail message must tell me how to get a hold of them in case I am unable to make the meeting.
- **Co-requisite:** Every student should also be for UNIV 1010.
- **Grading Policy (subject to change):**
 - This is a pass/fail course (this is not subject to change).
 - Attendance for at least 8 lectures (*excluding* the first on August 29th, 2013) is mandatory for passing and constitutes 50% of the grade.
 - The remaining 50% of the grade is based upon a written group project report due by 2.30pm sharp on December 10th, 2013. (Tuesday - last day of classes for this course).
 - Passing requires making 75% or above based on the above 2 requirements.
 - Any changes to the above items (except, of course, the first, will be announced in a timely fashion on appropriate fora)
- **Course Content and Aims:**
 - The purpose of this course is to introduce to students the methods of science and mathematics, motivated by the history of various topics. Students will learn that science progresses by a combination of necessity and aesthetics, which guide the scientist towards asking the right question, obtaining answers and learning from possibly wrong answers. Students will also learn the art of scientific writing, especially the need for precision in language and syntax. Students will also be alerted to various career opportunities and research tools. Students will also be alerted to proper study techniques.
 - Topics will be chosen from complex numbers, matrices, the importance of linearity, quaternions and applications, relationship between science, engineering and mathematics, linguistics and ethnobotany. Lectures will be at a level suitable for a lay audience.
 - Lecture notes for only a minority of the material will be provided, but not for all (deliberately). The intention is to get students to hone their skills at writing scientifically by carefully rewriting class notes for lectures for which notes were not provided.

Classroom Citizenship:

Any action which disturbs your classmates or interrupts the lecture is unacceptable.

Examples of such actions include the following:

- 1. Entering the classroom late. Please be punctual.
 - 2. Leaving the classroom before the end of lecture.
 - 3. Cell phones, ringers, buzzers, beepers, alarms, etc., need to be turned off unless you are a member of an emergency response team.
- An apology is expected from anyone creating such a disturbance.

- Cheating will not be tolerated. Students are expected to inform the lecturer of any suspected violations of the honor code. This includes plagiarism from the web - proper attribution of web resources is a must.

MAKEUP POLICY: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: In general makeups will be allowed **only** if there is a valid reason which is supported by official documentation. Examples of valid documentation are i) Doctors' notes; ii) Letter from employer (in case there is required work related travel, which conflicts with the day of an examination); iii) Travel documents (e.g., when a dire family related emergency travel conflicts with the day of an examination). Furthermore, *the onus* is on the student to intimate to me in a timely fashion (in particular, before the scheduled lecture/assignment), the possibility of having to miss the scheduled lecture/assignment.

- *However*, note that all such documentations will be rendered *null and void*, if there is any evidence that the student was, in fact, in a position to take the examination/attend the lecture. at the originally scheduled time. Thus, for instance, a doctor's note advising rest on the date of a lecture for this course will be considered null and void, if the student was known to have been present for a different course on the same day.

- Any missed assignment must be taken at the earliest opportunity convenient to *me (the instructor)*, once the original reason for missing the scheduled assignment is no longer in force.

NATS1101 - REQUIRED SIGNED STATEMENT
FALL 2013
V. Ramakrishna

- Please read the following statement. Sign your name, print your full name (but NO OTHER IDENTIFICATION),

I have received the handout regarding grading policies, aims, pace and style of the course, and the syllabus for the course. This handout was fully explained in the first lecture. I have also read it and understood it.

SIGNATURE:

PRINTED FULL NAME:

MAJOR: