MA41001: Personal Transferable Skills

Aim

The aim of this course is to provide the necessary technical and presentational skills that will allow you to investigate complex mathematical problems and present your findings in engaging, coherent and logical written and oral forms.

Organisation

This course will be run by Dr Fordyce Davidson in the Mathematics Division, Room J27 Fulton Building. He can be contacted on Tel: 01382 384692 or email: f.a.davidson@dundee.ac.uk. The course will comprise 33 lectures and tutorials. Most of our time will be spent in the computer lab working on core skills. Both individual and group work will be expected. Dr Davidson will make extensive use of Blackboard for announcements, discussions and distribution of course material. Please ensure you log in to Blackboard on a daily basis. This is a Level 4 course worth 15 SQCF credits (7.5 ECTS points).

Course content

The following provides a list of learning outcomes for the module.

- Learn how to communicate Mathematics:
  a) Understand how to structure, set out and typeset a technical report.
  b) Develop presentation skills for mathematical content.

- Become familiar with basic concepts of Matlab, and its use in solving differential equations. (This part is a prerequisite for the projects in semester 1 and 2)

- Construct and present a topic from mathematics using the skill you have acquired.

These topics will be addressed in three weekly class meetings during Semester 1.

Assessment

The overall assessment will be based on your marks for Matlab sessions (40%) and constructing a written report on a prescribed case study and presentation skills sessions (60%). There is no final exam for this module.

Your Commitment

You are expected to attend all classes except on medical grounds or with the special permission of the lecturer. If you are unable to complete elements of the coursework on time on medical grounds, you should inform the module leader and submit a medical certificate to the School Office. You are expected to log in to Blackboard on a daily basis to ensure you are up to date with coursework and plans for that week. Attendance at timetabled classes is not sufficient for this course, in particular. It is vital that you practice the new skills you learn outside the timetabled contact hours.
Study Support

If you are having difficulty with any aspect of the course, you should in the first instance make an appointment to see Dr Davidson. You may bring matters of concern about the course to the attention of the Mathematics Division Staff/Student Committee, which meets once each semester. A volunteer will act as 4th year representative to sit on the Staff-Student Committee; their name will be posted on BlackBoard. Finally, you can bring any matter of concern to the Head of Division at any time.

At the end of the module you will be asked to complete a confidential questionnaire regarding the content and presentation of the module. This is an important element in the University’s Academic Standards procedures.