

Math 250  
Number Theory and Mathematical Reasoning  
Aaron Robertson  
211 McGregory Hall  
email: arobertson@colgate.edu

**Office Hours:** TR 9:00 – 10:30 and by appointment.

**The Books:** Our main book will be *Number Theory Through Inquiry* by Marshall, Odell, and Starbird. We will also use the supplemental book *How to Read and Do Proofs* (6th edition) by Solow.

**Lecture Notes:** I will also provide you with my lectures notes after I have presented the material.

**What's Covered:** In the main book we will cover chapters 1 through 8. After finishing this material, we will move on to more abstract material for which there is no book (but, as mentioned before, there will be lecture notes).

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned and collected almost every class meeting. Consequently, you should expect to spend several hours between classes reviewing the material through homework. Homework will be passed out and is not from either of the books. Late homework will **not** be accepted unless accompanied by a note from your academic dean.

**Testing:** There will be six test. There are no make-up tests except in extenuating circumstances and when accompanied by a note from your academic dean.

*The first five tests will be held on Fridays from 2pm to 4pm. This time should fit your class schedule. Let me know if there are any conflicts. Your last test will be during your scheduled Finals time, which is Friday, May 12, 9am – 11am. This test will not be cumulative in terms of material, but it will be cumulative in terms of your proof skills.*

**Grading:** Homework (10%) and Tests (6 @15% each). The class grades will be curved based on your overall score. I will give you a grade on each test to give you an indication of how you did; however, I will not base the final grade on your test grades, rather your overall score in the class.

### Tentative Testing Schedule

*All dates are Friday, 2pm to 4pm, except for the last test, which is 9am to 11am*

**February Dates:** 10th, 24th

**March Dates:** 10th

**April Dates:** 7th, 21st

**May Date:** 12th