

PHIL 9301 Seminar on Philosophy of Applied Mathematics
Winter, 2010

Official Course Website:(currently under construction)
<http://www.rotman.uwo.ca/batterman/website/>

This course will be a survey of contemporary work aiming to understand various roles mathematics plays in the empirical sciences. We will examine the so-called indispensability argument as well as more recent and promising attempts to explicate mathematics' role in science.

Very Tentative Schedule of Readings:

WEEK:

II Mark Colyvan, *The Indispensability of Mathematics* Chapters 1 ,2, 3.

III Mark Colyvan, *The Indispensability of Mathematics* Chapters 4, 5, 6.

IV Fraser MacBride, "Listening to Fictions: A Study of Fieldian Nominalism," *BJPS*, 50 (1999), 431–455.

V Chris Pincock, "Towards a Philosophy of Applied Mathematics."

VI Give me a day or two more to figure out the rest!

Other supplementary articles to be announced.

Requirements

Term paper, weekly comments and criticisms of readings, class presentation.

Office Hours: Wednesday 1–3 STH 2150B and by appointment.

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