PMU 199 Mathematical Explorations Assignment 1

Prof. McCann

Due: Thursday Sept. 23, 2009

NOT TO BE HANDED IN: Read and work out the first three problems of section 1.1 of "The Heart of Mathematics" (hereafter "Heart"). Consult the hints for these problems if necessary and the solutions only as a last resort. You'll learn more and broaden your experiences by approaching mathematics as an active participant — by doing it yourself — rather than passively — by reading about how someone else has done it.

TO BE TURNED IN: $\S1.4 \# 15$ (a challenging problem!), and $\S2.1 \# 16-18$

Always justify your answers as completely as possible with logical reasoning, and organize and present your solutions as cleanly and neatly as you can.

ELECTRONIC JOURNAL PROCEDURE:

Each week you'll be expected to make a journal entry ranging from a paragraph to a page documenting your reactions to the material in the course. How has the course affected your perceptions of mathematics? How has it affected you? Have there been any unexpected surprises?

Four times during the semester I will be expecting you to email ONE such journal entry to me at mccann@math.toronto.edu. It can be any one of the entries from the preceding three week period. These will be graded only on a SATISFACTORY / UNSAT-ISFACTORY basis. However, they will help document your progress in the course and keep me in touch with your experiences, while also giving you an opportunity to work on your writing skills. These journal entries will be due on the following schedule:

Schedule for journal entries: First entry due by Sept. 30; Second entry due after Oct. 1 and before Oct. 21; Third entry due after Oct. 22 and before Nov. 4; Final entry due after Nov. 5 and before Nov 25.

In the event you are forced to miss one or more lectures for any reason other than medical (with written documentation), your attendance and participation grade will suffer. However, one absence will be excused if you send me an email explaining the reason for your absence along with an additional journal entry above and beyond those described above. If you follow the same procedure with additional absences, I may or may not choose to excuse them at my sole discretion. Missed quizzes cannot be made up, and will not be excused except for documented medical reasons. Assignments are expected to be turned in on time even if you are absent, and in exceptional circumstances can be scanned and e-mailed to the professor at mccann-AT-math-DOT-toronto-DOT-edu, or failing that, FAXed to his attention at (416) 978-4107.