

## **Syllabus: MATH 299B, Fall 2011**

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Class Web Page: <http://www.math.umd.edu/~bhunt/putnam/>

This is a seminar course on mathematical problem-solving designed to help students prepare for the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest and the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. Each week a set of problems from a past competition will be assigned, and discussed the following week. Students will take turns presenting at the blackboard solutions (or partial solutions) they've come up with over the past week, and the class will ask questions or make suggestions to help complete the solution.

Enrolled students are expected to:

- Attend every week, or notify the instructor in advance if they have to miss a class.
- Spend time outside of class thinking about the assigned problems each week.
- Be active in class: take several turns at the blackboard over the course of the semester, and contribute questions and comments about other students' solutions.
- Participate in both competitions, which will be held on campus on Saturday October 29 from 9-11:30am and on Saturday December 3 from 10-1 and 3-6.

Grades will be based on attendance, participation, and effort. The competitions are very hard and students will not be graded on how many problems they solve.