

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS
CLASS SYLLABUS

MATHEMATICS/STATISTICS 802 – Major Essay in Mathematics/Statistics

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

MATH 802: Essay on a selected topic for students in the course-based MSc program in Mathematics.

STAT 802: Essay on a selected topic for students in the course-based MSc program in Statistics.

PURPOSE OF CLASS – The purpose of this class is to give course-based MSc students an opportunity to develop writing skills and experience research. The student is expected to select a significant topic in Mathematics or Statistics, research the topic under the supervision of an advisor and write a significant essay on the topic. This essay will be shorter and less in depth than a Master’s thesis.

ROLE OF THE ADVISOR -- The essay is supervised by an academic staff member of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics (referred to as “the advisor”). Students registered in this class should ask a professor to be their advisor. It is suggested that students ask a professor who either taught them a course, or whose academic interests overlaps with theirs. The student and the advisor should meet early in the term to select a topic and set a reading list. During this meeting, the advisor will also give the students basic advice on how to write a good quality essay. It is expected that the student and advisor will meet regularly throughout the term.

The Graduate Co-ordinator will ensure that each student registered in MATH/STAT 802 has an advisor within the first 2 weeks of term (if a student has trouble finding an advisor, they should ask the Graduate Co-ordinator for assistance).

EVALUATION – The grade for this course will be either a complete or incomplete. The grade will be decided by the Advisor and communicated to the Graduate Coordinator.

DETAILS ABOUT ESSAY

- The essay is normally around twenty pages in length, and should contain material that is more advanced than is covered in courses.
- The essay should be submitted by the student to the advisor.
- The advisor can require the student to give a talk on the contents of the essay.
- It is the sole responsibility of the supervisor to evaluate the essay. They then relate their evaluation (pass/fail) to the graduate coordinator who will input the marks.
- The advisor and student should set a date for the final version of essay to be submitted (the last day of term, before the start of the exam period, is recommended). The grade for MATH/STAT 802 must be submitted by the last day of term (if the student requires an extension, they need to make a formal request for an extension). In setting the due date, the time the advisor needs to evaluate the essay should be taken into account.