



Dr. Michael Kozdron who teaches in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics at the University of Regina, has created a new class that is aimed at making mathematics more accessible to students outside the Faculty of Science.

Math 124: The Art and Science of Secret Writing looks at classical and modern methods of message encryption, decryption and cryptanalysis. The class also delves into the military and social history of cryptology and the public policy questions raised by its increasing use online.

Kozdron designed the course primarily for arts students and says it satisfies the core requirement in mathematics or logic for an undergraduate degree.

"The advantage of this course is that it can introduce rather sophisticated mathematical ideas in a meaningful way to students who might be terrified of math from bad experiences in high school," says Kozdron.

Kozdron hopes to make centuries-old mathematical theories more accessible to non-science students by demonstrating how they are used in our daily lives.

"It's relevant for society to be able to transmit vast amounts of data securely," explains Kozdron. "We take this for granted every time we send an email, every time we transmit our credit card number. We want some assurances that the number is secure. Cryptography is more than this romantic idea of being a game of spies and high espionage - it's common everyday transactions needing to be encrypted."

Aside from making the course material interesting for students, Kozdron also wants to show them how ideas created today can have untold applications for the future. "We are able to transfer all this data with modern technology based on 300-year-old math. Imagine what can be accomplished 300 years from now by people who are doing math just for the sake of doing math?"

Kozdron sees long-term benefits in helping students become more comfortable with mathematics. He anticipates that some of the students he teaches today will become the policy makers of tomorrow, the people who may support new research.



"I can't say all mathematics research funding should be targeted to a specific project, rather there has to be a continued funding of knowledge-based research in mathematics. Ideas created today can have untold applications for the future."

- Dr. Michael Kozdron

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 25 Noon

Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit Seminar
 Title: "Circle Rubrics"
 Speakers: Blair Stonechild and Sharlene McGowan
 Location: Room 341, Education Building
 Info: 585-5142

Wednesday, February 25 1:30 p.m.

Political Science Public Forum
 Title: "Big Ideas at 150"
 Speakers: Martin Hewson, Shadia Drury, Lee Ward & Ann Ward
 Location: Room 215, Language Institute
 Info: 585-4202

Thursday, February 26 10 a.m.

KHS and Summer/Graduate Career Fair
 Location: Phillips, Hager and North Investment Management Ltd. Atrium, Centre for Kinesiology Health and Sport
 Info: 585-4841

Thursday, February 26 Noon

Noon hour forum
 Topic: Taste of the Tropics Winter Escape
 Speaker: Wilma Wessel
 Location: Room 106, Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus
 Info: 585-5870

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 Location: Room 106, Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus
 Info: 585-5870

Thursday, February 26 7:30 p.m.

Coffee House Controversies
 Title: "People's Princesses: Why do we love them?"
 Speaker: Robin Ganey
 Location: Chapters (2625 Gordon Road)
 Info: 585-4226

February 27-28

Trash Talkin' Conference
 Title: "Trash Talkin': New Directions in Popular Culture and Contemporary Writing"
 Location: Room 191, Education Building
 Registration: <http://www.uregina.ca/hri/>
 Info: steven.hahn@uregina.ca or trash.talkin@uregina.ca

Friday, February 27 2:30 p.m.

Religious Studies Seminar
 Title: "Real Islam: Discourses of Religious Authenticity"
 Speaker: Volker Greifenhagen
 Location: Room 232, Classroom Building
 Info: 585-5128

Monday, March 2 7 p.m.

Talkin' about School & Society Discussion Series
 Topic: Public Education: What are the potential roles and consequences of faith, race, sexuality or gender-based schools?
 Location: La Bodega Restaurant, Upper Level (2228 Albert Street)
 Info: patrick.lewis@uregina.ca or marc.spooner@uregina.ca

Monday, March 2 8 p.m.

Playwrights Reading Series
 Guest: Daniel MacIvor
 Location: Shu-box Theatre, Riddell Centre
 Info: 585-5517

For a complete calendar of events at the University of Regina, visit our website at www.uregina.ca

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