Course description: Rather than covering a new mathematical subject, this course focuses on helping students see the ever elusive Big Picture. That is, we are designing this course to help you understand what you do with mathematics and where it fits into your life, your career, our society, other societies, other planets, other geometries, other universes and so on. The course is flexible in nature and we hope those who enroll will participate actively. Perspective on Mathematics is supposed to benefit all students rather than burden them, so it only meets on Wednesday mornings for a single unit. Meeting content will vary, but all meetings will include time for student discussion. Most of all, I am looking forward to learning from you to make this the best course possible. The course material will evolve with emerging student interests.

Grading policy: Attendance is required for this course. Half of your grade will be based on attendance, participation in classroom discussions, and participation in the web-based “Question of the week” discussions. Everyone will be required to keep a journal, and half of your grade will be based on your journal. After every meeting, the journal should be updated to include your personal impressions and reactions to the class.

- Your views of mathematical structure in the world.
- Connections between you and the speaker/visitor.
- The relevance of the class meeting to your undergraduate activities.
- The relevance of the class meeting content to your plans after you graduate.

Journals will be kept in a three-ring binder, so that I can collect them from time to time to provide feedback to you.