

----- Original Message -----  
Subject: Welcome to Freshman Seminar: Taking Sudoku Seriously  
From: brusso@math.uci.edu  
Date: Mon, September 23, 2013 9:00 pm  
To: 87561-F13@classes.uci.edu  
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Welcome to the FRESHMAN SEMINAR: Taking Sudoku Seriously

First, a very important announcement. The first meeting of this seminar will be during "Week 0" on Thursday September 26 at 11 am in Engineering Tower 201 (ET201). There will be no meeting during "Week 1" on October 3 since I have a commitment out of town on that day. So the second meeting will be during "Week 2" on Thursday October 10. If you cannot attend on September 26, do not worry as I will be summarizing each of our meetings on a website which is not yet constructed.

I am planning to start by discussing the first chapter of the book: "Taking Sudoku Seriously" by Jason Rosenhouse and Laura Taalman, who are both professional mathematicians, as myself. However, this is not a math class and no serious mathematics will be done unless you want to do that as part of your project.

I do not believe any of you would be interested in this seminar if you have not already had experience with the Sudoku puzzle. I am not an expert in this puzzle but I have played it enough times to want to learn more about it. That is the reason I am offering this seminar. Hopefully we will unlock some of the secrets of this fascinating puzzle together.

Other sources of material for the seminar would be the wikipedia entry, the iPhone app called "Enjoy Sudoku" and some research articles of varying degrees of sophistication, which will be identified during the course of the seminar. You can access the book by Rosenhouse and Taalman mentioned above at the following URL:

<https://vpn.nacs.uci.edu/+CSCO+00756767633A2F2F79766F2E7>  
(NO LINE BREAK OR SPACE HERE!) A6C7679766F656E656C2E70627A++/Open.aspx?id=342806

In order to access this link it will be necessary for you to log in with your UCINetID. Please let me or a librarian know if you have trouble accessing this book. Of course, you can always order a copy from Amazon.com or other book sellers. I have not specified any text for this seminar, as all resources will be available online.

The wikipedia article can be found at  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudoku>.

Other references will be posted as the seminar progresses.

Although it would certainly be worthwhile for you to read the first chapter of Rosenhouse and Taalman before our first meeting, you can also do this later.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to meeting all of you on Thursday of this week.

Sincerely,

Your humble servant,

Bernard Russo