Expectations for Reflections

Effective teaching requires constant reflection. To prepare you to reflect productively on the teaching you do in your classroom, we will periodically reflect on the content of this course. Moreover, these assignments will give you the opportunity to think about how you will construct mathematics in your own classroom.
Specifically, these assignments will address:

- what mathematics is,
- what it means to do mathematics,
- the role of the teaching and learning mathematics in our society, and
- the social and political nature of mathematics.

The reflections should be clearly written and well thought out. These assignments are short, but require a great deal of thinking. Do not waste words.

All of the **main reflection assignments** will include questions that ask you to:

- Reflect on your own beliefs prior to reading the articles
- Share and justify your opinion of the author's argument
- Reflect on your past mathematical experiences in light of the author's argument

You Do NOT Have to Agree
You are not required to agree with the authors or with me. Your grades will be based on whether you think deeply about and take seriously the authors' points and my comments, not based on your opinions. I believe that an open and honest discussion of these ideas is the most productive way to learn about them.

Submission

Reflections should be typed, double-spaced and grammatically correct. To submit the assignments, upload them as **word documents** into the D2L Dropbox, in the appropriate folder.

These assignments are a chance for you and me to discuss your thoughts about teaching. I will leave feedback with an attached version of your paper with edits/comments inside your word document. Respond to my comments by downloading this edited file and adding your response to my comments at the bottom, clearly marked. **Assignments are considered completed until you have responded to my comments. Only then will I assign a grade.**

Additional Information

The reflection assignments include two **introductory** assignments, three **main reflection assignments**, and a final reflection assignment that asks you to look back over the semester.

The two **introductory** assignments are designed to lay the groundwork for reflecting on the nature of mathematics. The three **main reflection assignments** all look at the *social and/or political nature of mathematics* in one or more ways. These readings are generally different from the mainstream view of mathematics. This is purposeful because you are unlikely to encounter these views elsewhere. Your course projects will build on the themes of these perspectives. We will also occasionally do homework and/or lessons that are examples of the points of view in these articles.

Grading

Your papers and response to my comments will be graded as a whole based on the scale below. **Late assignments** will be docked a letter grade for each day late.

5 Goes above and beyond by doing one or more of the following:
- Shows particular depth of thought and understanding of the author's argument(s)
- Makes connections to outside resources

4 Thorough and thoughtful response to all of the questions posed on the assignment and to all follow up comments/questions from the instructor.
Demonstrates a careful reading of the author's argument and accounts for the nuance in the author's point(s), regardless of whether you agree or disagree.

3 Response addresses all questions and/or comments, but some of the analysis is superficial in nature.

2 One or more question/comment is missing or severely shortchanged and/or you do not appear to have thought deeply about the nuances of the argument(s).

1 Minimal work or connection to the questions/comments on the assignment.

0 No work or I am unable to understand what you did.