Montana State University will offer college credit for television mathematics course

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montana State University will offer college credit for a television course in contemporary mathematics that will reach viewers within range of Missoula and Spokane television stations, according to Dr. Arthur E. Livingston, chairman of the MSU Mathematics Department.

The course, an offering in the National Broadcasting Co.'s Continental Classroom series, will be broadcast Mondays through Fridays over KHQ-TV, Spokane, from 9 to 9:30 a. m. M.S.T. and over KMSO-TV, Missoula, from 12:15 to 12:45 p. m. M.S.T., Dr. Livingston said. The TV lessons will start Sept. 26.

The course is intended for liberal arts college students, junior and senior high school mathematics teachers, gifted high school students, college students preparing to teach mathematics, and engineers, professional persons and other adults interested in acquiring a better understanding of contemporary mathematics.

The first semester of the course will deal with modern algebra and the second, with probability and statistics. The first semester the course will be divided into two sections. Persons taking it for undergraduate credit will be required to view the program on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Dr. Livingston explained, while those enrolled for graduate credit will view additional lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Tuesday and Thursday sessions are devoted to the teaching of mathematics in the classroom.

To earn college credit, a student will view the lectures and work the problems in the text to prepare for examinations to be drawn up by the University and proctor-ed by a school administrator in his own locality. The tests will be graded at MSU. Information on enrolling in the course may be obtained by writing to: Continental Classroom, Mathematics Department, Montana State University, Missoula.
School principals interested in granting capable students high school credit for the course can arrange to do so by writing to the MSU Mathematics Department, Dr. Livingston said.

The modern algebra course, taught by Dr. John L. Kelley of the Mathematics Department of the University of California, Berkeley, will be primarily concerned with ideas and concepts of algebra, including the fundamental concepts underlying the recent changes and developments in the approach to and the teaching of the subject.

Topics to be covered are a brief survey of elementary algebra from an advanced point of view, subsets of the set of real numbers, complex numbers, simultaneous linear equations, subsets of the plane and of three-dimensional space, linear and quadratic functions of lines and planes and introduction to matrices.

A year of high school algebra and a year of high school geometry are required for the course, Dr. Livingston said. Successful completion of the first-semester course in algebra will meet the requirement for enrolling in the second-semester course in probability and statistics, he noted.

The required text for the algebra course is J. L. Kelley's "Introduction to Modern Algebra" ($2.75). A "Teacher's Guide" ($1.00), containing notes on the television lectures and solutions to all the problems in the text, is strongly recommended, but not required. Prospective students should order immediately from the publisher: D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 120 Alexander St., Princeton, N. J.

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