

UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: MATH 490 Special Topics in Mathematics

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Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2016

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COURSE INFORMATION: (please provide all information in the “current” column, and only the information changing in the “proposed” column)

change		Current	proposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Number(s)	MATH 490	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Special Topics in Mathematics	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤30c)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation		MATH 221 or MATH 225 or MATH 251 or MATH 301
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credits	1-4	1-4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Max. Total Credits		8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grading Method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

[The “description” that appears in SA for all Special Topics courses is a concatenation of sub-titles of previous courses. It is not an actual description of a Special Topics course.]

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (no longer than 75 words): leave blank if no changes are being proposed to the catalog description. NOTE: information about prerequisites should NOT appear in the catalog description.)

A Special Topics course covers material that is not available in a regular course, but is suitable for coverage at this level. Notes attached to the course in a particular semester will describe the actual contents. This course can be repeated once for credit, if the topic of the course is different.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

This request fixes the setup of this course in SA. (i) A proper description helps students understand the role of a Special Topics course. (ii) The course should be repeatable once, if the topics of the course is different; that is, since we typically offer regular courses with 3 or 4 credits, the max. total credits should be 8. The variable-credit is correct. (iii) Recommended pre-requisite indicates typical level of preparation needed.