Welcome to the fascinating world of Number Theory!

**Instructor information:** Sunil Chebolu, Office: Stevenson 303B, email: schebol@ilstu.edu, Phone: 309 438-3893.

**Class time and place:**
- MWF, STV 131 2:00 - 2:50 PM


  I will post homework problems and other course related information on this homepage. So make sure you check this page regularly. Also, check your ISU email everyday. I will send announcements frequently to your ilstu email account.

**Textbook:** NUMBER THEORY: A lively introduction with Proofs, Applications, and Stories, by James E. Pommersheim, Tim K. Marks, and Erica L. Flapan. Answers and Hints to odd numbered problems are available on the Student Companion website. See the class homepage for the link.

**Office hours:**
- (1) Th 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM in my office STV 330B)
- (2) WF 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM in my office (STV 303B).

You can also make an appointment to see me.

**Note:** If I am not in my office, please check STV 330 or the conference room in the math office.

**Course content:** This course is an introduction to elementary number theory – a fascinating subject with rich literature. We will study various topics in number theory by following the textbook closely. My goal is to cover chapters 1-9 and selected topics from chapters 10 - 15 as time permits. We will begin with a quick overview of proof techniques from chapters 1 and 2 and then move on to the core number theory material which spreads chapters 3 - 9. The course will also focus on some history and applications of number theory.

**Class tests:** There will be 3 class tests during the semester, one each in the months of February, March and April. The lowest of your 3 class test grades will be dropped. Please note that there are no make-up exams in this class. In particular, if you are unable to take a class test on the scheduled
date for whatever reason, there will be no make-up for it. You will receive a grade of zero for the first missed test and it will be dropped as the lowest one. Precise details on the dates and the format of the class tests will be announced later in the class. There will be a final which will be cumulative.

**Homework:** There will be homework assigned on a weekly basis. I will not collect homework! However, it is your duty to do all the problems assigned in the homework. There will be a good correlation between the homework and the class tests. In fact, I will pick some problems for exams verbatim (cut and paste) from the homework. Also, please do not expect to learn the subject without doing homework. After all, mathematics can be learned only by doing it. So please make sure you put good effort in doing the homework.

**Grading:** The final grade will be a weighted average of the class quizzes, class tests, and the final. Here are the weights:

1. Quizzes – 10%
2. Class tests – 60%
3. Final – 30%

**Grading Scale:** Grades for the course are based on the following percentages:

- A [90, 100]
- B [80, 90)
- C [70, 80)
- D [60, 70)
- F [0, 59]

**Reading:** You MUST read the relevant sections/topics ahead of time; I will tell you in advance what sections you should be reading. The quizzes will be based on this reading assignment. The goal of the quizzes is to determine to what extent you have read the assigned topics.

**General rules:** Attending lectures is incredibly important. If you start skipping lectures, very soon you may find yourself at sea, so please be warned. Never hesitate to interrupt me during the lecture for questions. I can assure you that there will be several others in the class who will also have the same questions/doubts as you. You are not allowed Calculators on exams, so please refrain from using them while doing homework problems unless necessary. Please note that there are no make up exams, so make sure you don’t miss any exams. Finally, I will be most comfortable if you call me “Sunil” – my first name.

GOOD LUCK!