

Undergraduate Colloquium in Mathematics

Illinois State University

1:00–1:50 PM CST, September 30th, 2021

Speaker: Ron Gould, Emory University

Applications of Mathematics to Games and Puzzles

Abstract: We have all seen applications of mathematics. In your studies you see them in physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science. All these are natural places to find uses for mathematics. But mathematics lives all around us and if you look, you can find ways to apply mathematics in different places. These places include games and puzzles. In this talk I will show you a variety of such applications, using limited discrete mathematics techniques. I hope these examples will convince you that mathematics is the most useful tool you can have in your skill set.

Biography: Ron Gould is Goodrich C. White Professor Emeritus from Emory University. He received his Ph.D. in 1979 from Western Michigan University, with speciality in Graph Theory and Combinatorial Mathematics. In his career he has written nearly 190 papers and two books, Graph Theory (Dover Pub.) and Mathematics in Games, Sports, and Gambling: The Games People Play, (Taylor Francis Group) which received the American Library Association Choice Award, Outstanding Academic Titles in 2010. He has directed 28 Ph.D. students. He is presently a Heilbrun Distinguished Emeritus Fellow of Emory's Emeritus College.

