Welcome to our conspiracy.

Mathematics is a powerful and beautiful system of thought with a remarkable ability to describe disparate phenomena in the world around us. We want to share this with you.

This course is designed for students who enjoy thinking about the mysteries of life and our place in the world. We'll be exploring some big paradoxes: How mathematics explains the Golden Rule, what is the shape of the universe, and why this entire sentence is totally false. If you saw the large egg-like sculptures on Old Main Lawn last winter and spring, we'll be making more of those.

If you like puzzles (and being puzzled, and getting yourself unpuzzled) you will enjoy this course. If you do not, we have other options. This course is for self-starters, who like to think.

There will be two main ways you will interact with us and the course:

*The Math 2033 Wiki*, math2033.uark.edu/wiki will be the main product of the course and the repository for all the long term projects we undertake.

*The Math 2033 Forum*, math2033.uark.edu/forum will be where we hash things out. There will be three categories of discussion: The Daily Journal, Math Talk, and Infrastructure. Daily participation in the Daily Journal is mandatory to pass the course: Each class day we will post a question for you discuss in the Daily Journal; the quality of your contributions will be the cornerstone of your grade in the class.

The grading scheme is very straightforward. To get a C you only need to be committed to the course; to earn an A or B you need to help build the course for future semesters.

**What It Takes To Get a C Policy:** You must pass a threshold of activity in both the Wiki and the Daily Journal. On the Wiki you must make a major contribution to at least three articles and make at least minor but meaningful edits at least once a week. On the Daily Journal, each day you will be able to give points to each others entries based on their quality and you must get a certain number of points for your entry to be counted for the day. Finally, you must attend every day.

**Missed Work Policy:** Every fifteen total missed minor wiki-edits, journal entries, and class days will lower your grade by one letter. You have fourteen passes to use as you need—and most of you will need at least a few of these just for the days you’re stumped by the Daily Journal. Save the rest for those times you are in jail and can’t get to class, another relative passes, the day it snows, the car breaks down or you can’t get out of the hospital in time... We are not kidding and we are not interested in excuses.
What It Takes To Get an A or a B Policy: You have talents and interests. You might not think they’re relevant to a math course, but they are. We need your help, we really do, if we are ever to achieve our goal of total world domination. There are some many things that need to be built if this course is going to succeed in the long run: video production, bamboo construction, art work, writing, editing, woodworking and model building, musical insight, web design, programming, even an ability to systemize, organize and compile are all going to come in handy.

The course wiki site is going to be the main repository for these activities, and your grade beyond a C will be based on your contributions there. Let’s be blunt: we’re holding back on the A’s for the work that really blows us away. But show us some interest and commitment (and yes, talent), and the B can be yours.

Think we’re being vague? You bet. We’re going to reward entrepreneurship and imagination. We’re going to make suggestions all through the semester about ways you can rise to the occasion, but we’re not going to spell things out entirely: if a C’s fine for you it’s fine for us.

Final Exam Policy: There will be no final exam. However:

Final Course Grade Policy: At the end of the semester we will be scheduling short interviews with all of you to discuss how the course went, your contributions and your final grade. We want to see you all, and this is mandatory to attend if you are to receive anything above the basic grade from attendance, the wiki edits and the Daily Journal.

Not Paying Attention Policy: You will be asked to leave the class immediately if you demonstrate a wish to read the paper, send text messages, surf the internet, etc. We do not want you in the room if you do not want to be here. No kidding.

Not Getting It Policy: Let’s face it. This course is not for everybody. Maybe it’s just for an exclusive bunch. If this is all making you uneasy, there are other options. Really, Finite isn’t as bad as people say. Go.

Supplies and Materials: We do have a source book, Five Minute Mathematics; you are required to have an i-Clicker. You will also need, sporadically: • scissors • tape • craft glue • playing cards and dice • (and later) work gloves, safety helmet and goggles. Depending on your interests, you will need other things we have not yet thought of.