

UNDERGRADUATE MATH SEMINAR

The next, and last, math seminar of the winter term will be

DATE: **THURSDAY, October 22, 2026**

Time & **12:30 – Refreshments in Bailey 204**

Location: **12:50 – 1:45 Seminar in Bailey 207**



Professor Ellen Gasparovic

In this seminar, **Professor Ellen Gasparovic**, a topologist in the Union College math department, will present the following talk.

Title: Can Math Save Democracy? The Quest to Quantify Gerrymandering

Abstract: Gerrymandering is the manipulation of electoral district boundaries in order to favor or disenfranchise a particular political party or group. Although reform efforts have gained significant momentum in recent years, partisan gerrymandering remains at the forefront of our political landscape, fueled by ongoing legal battles and mid-decade redistricting efforts. An essential question for democracy is how to rigorously determine whether, and to what extent, a congressional map has been gerrymandered. In this talk, we will trace the evolution of methods for quantifying gerrymandering, exploring the progress that has been made toward answering this question ... and how mathematics might ultimately help save democracy as we know it.

Pre-Approval Time! MTH 105, 110, 113, 199. And, Meet with your Advisor!

Don't forget: the deadline for submitting pre-approval forms for winter term course offerings is **Friday, October 23 at 5:00pm**. This winter term, three math courses require pre-approval: **MTH 105, 110, 113, and 199**. Registration for the winter term then begins on November 9th. As you are planning your winter courses, don't forget to meet with your advisor who must clear you to register.

Students – Join the MAA. It Is Now FREE for you!

Through the Union College Math Department's institutional membership, students are now able to become members of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) **for free!** Student members receive online subscriptions to **all** MAA Journals, including The American Mathematical Monthly. Additionally, they have access to exclusive professional development resources, community networking opportunities, and more. As their website says, "MAA membership is your portal to the community of mathematicians and mathematical educators all focused on advancing mathematics at the collegiate level and providing you with opportunities to build your network of professionals and peers."



Follow this QR code for instructions on how to join the MAA

For instructions on how to join, follow the link below or the QR code above. Have we mentioned that **it's free!** <https://www.union.edu/document/maa-student-membership>

A Fun Problem Seen on Instagram: A Fake Fermat!

Prove there are no solutions to the equation below, where a , b , and c are natural numbers:

$$a^a + b^b = c^c$$

Calculus Help Center: free calculus tutoring!

The Calculus Help Center (CHC) offers **free, drop-in, peer tutoring** in calculus courses through Math 117, Sunday through Thursday, 7:30-10:00pm in the SORUM HOUSE seminar room.