

**MATH 8001**

**17 October 2014**

**Peer teaching observations**

- Mid-term alerts
- Mid-semester feedback
- Group work assignment returned today
- Turn in observation reflections Friday 7 November

## Why do observations?

- Few instructors set out deliberately to do a bad job. Most have reasonable goals.
- We don't see ourselves as others see us. Being able to view our teaching from a new perspective can be an enlightening experience.
- Most instructors have alternate strategies available and can use them if they see a need.
- We can learn new strategies for our classroom by observing other instructors.

## Goals of the Process

- Encourage the instructor to articulate pedagogical goals
- Provide the instructors with as complete a picture of his/her classroom as possible using observable, objective data.
- Encourage the instructor to reflect on his/her course, particularly whether his/her goals for student learning are being met.
- Help instructor find alternative strategies to use when current strategies are not helping the instructor reach his/her goals.

- Create a supportive environment (includes being confidential).

## **Our plan for conducting peer observations in 8001**

- Decide on a partner (record this on the attendance sheet).
- Visit one 50-minute discussion by Thursday 6 November.
- Meet with your partner after the observation.

## **During the observation and follow-up**

- When you observe, take notes on what the TA writes on the board, what the TA says, and your general observations. What is it like to be a student in this class?
- Meet with the TA you observed and come to consensus on strengths and suggestions on new strategies.
- Summarize the conversation and include this in your observation notes.

- Submit your observation notes on Friday 8 November. (This is not a part of your teaching file or that of the observed TA.)



**Any issues arising in your current teaching?**