

September 1, 1999 – Invited lecture for “Fall Perspectives on Teaching” at UWO

“Must Mathematical Instruction Be Infinitely Boring and Deadly Poisonous?”

When young people think about a “fun time”, a lecture about mathematics is not often the first idea that springs into their minds. Beautiful beaches, romantic adventures, and movie theaters are likely to push the idea of attending mathematical lectures to the very bottom of their list/s of wants and desires. Although it is not well-known, it is possible to blend the art of the Marx Brothers, Woody Allen, and Shakespeare with the serious learning of mathematics at the university level, as well as to show students some unimagined possibilities and adventures in mathematics.

