# COURSE DETAIL

| MATHEMATICS FOR POETS |
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| **Country**<br>Netherlands |
| **Host Institution**<br>Utrecht University – University College Utrecht |
| **Program(s)**<br>University College Utrecht |
| **UCEAP Course Level**<br>Upper Division |
| **UCEAP Subject Area(s)**<br>Mathematics |
| **UCEAP Course Number**<br>100 |
| **UCEAP Course Suffix** |
| **UCEAP Official Title**<br>MATHEMATICS FOR POETS |
| **UCEAP Transcript Title**<br>MATH FOR POETS |
| **UCEAP Quarter Units**<br>6.00 |
| **UCEAP Semester Units**<br>4.00 |

**Course Description**
This course takes a big-picture look at the nature of mathematics and its role in human thought, emphasizing its interactions with society, history, philosophy, science, and culture. The course involves studying key mathematical arguments in some detail, but the goal is not to develop a repertoire of technical skills. Instead, accessible mathematical topics are specifically selected for their rich interconnections with cultural context, and mathematical work is integrated with reflections on its broader meaning and implications. Instead of the drill and practice problems of a traditional mathematics class, mathematics is approached through seminar discussions, hands-on activities, and readings connecting it to broader issues. Thus, a selection of emblematic and important mathematical proofs are analyzed and used as a platform for reflecting on the nature of mathematics. In parallel, excerpts from seminal historical texts across the ages are read as well as modern scholarship from a wide range of academic disciplines that shed light on the interplay between mathematics and its societal and intellectual context. The focus is especially on geometry, from the origins of mathematical reasoning in early civilizations, to Euclid's Elements that was the gold standard of exact reasoning for millennia and the model for countless philosophical systems, to the projective geometry of Renaissance art, to the more modern non-Euclidean geometry that overturned conventional wisdom about the nature of human spatial perception and the shape of space.

**Language(s) of Instruction**
English

**Host Institution Course Number**
UCSCIMAT01

**Host Institution Course Title**
MATHEMATICS FOR POETS

**Host Institution Course Details**

**Host Institution Campus**
Science

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| **Host Institution Faculty** |
| **Host Institution Degree** |
| **Host Institution Department**<br>Mathematics |
| **Course Last Reviewed** |

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