

Southern California-Nevada Section meeting at California Lutheran University,
March 21, 2009.

A Section NExT Session **open** to all meeting participants

Alumni Hall, Room 128

10:05 – 10:55 am

Mathematical Ideas, a different approach to teaching Math

Presented by

Silvia Talaoc, Nicholas Mabe and Edouard Tchertchian
California State University Northridge

All too often, students view math as an obstacle or simply a requirement that must be fulfilled in order to graduate. At Cal State Northridge, Mathematical Ideas is a non-traditional undergraduate course primarily taught by graduate students who are intent on presenting non-math majors with a different perspective on the subject. This course aspires to show that mathematics is applicable not only to other fields but to many aspects of day to day life. Math Ideas is taught using both the traditional lecture and hybrid formats. Topics of discussion will include both approaches to teaching this course, the advantages and disadvantages of the two formats, and the struggle to introduce students to advanced topics in an appealing manner. We will also discuss the benefits this course has to offer the students as well as the graduate instructors who teach it.