Instructor: Anthony Mendes. Call me Tony. If uncomfortable using first names, call me Dr. Mendes.

Email: aamendes@calpoly.edu

Office hours: Office hours are held in Building 25, Room 202. Office hours are at

11:10–12:00 Mondays,
2:10–4:00 Mondays,
2:10–3:00 Fridays.

Please come and visit me to talk about mathematics or anything else! I’d love to see you there.

Website: The web page

http://www.calpoly.edu/~aamendes/discrete.html

contains our syllabus, exercises, and notes.

Course content: This course introduces advanced topics in enumerative combinatorics. Topics include permutation statistics, partitions, generating functions, symmetric functions, the RSK algorithm, and Polya theory. I am greatly looking forward to sharing these magnificent ideas with you! Although the topics in this course are outstanding, my primary objective is to train you to think like a combinatorialist.

Textbook: Course notes will be placed on our web site periodically. These excellent second references are also available online:

1. Counting with Symmetric Functions by Anthony Mendes and Jeffrey Remmel,
2. Generatingfunctionology by Herb Wilf,

If you ever want to read more about a specific topic, please ask me!

Math 435 vs. Math 530: The course content for the both courses is the same, but the assignments and exams may not be. Both courses are designed for the mathematically mature—I have high expectations for everyone. Expect to spend significant time on the sometimes challenging exercises.

Grading: Letter grades are based on assignments, two midterms exams, and a final exam. The assignments will count for 1/3 of the grade and the three exam scores will be averaged to count for the remaining 2/3. Letter grades will be assigned such that a total score of 90% or above earns an A, 80% or greater earns at least a B, 70% or greater earns at least a C, and 60% or greater earns at least a D.

Dates: Assignment due dates will be announced in class.
Midterm exams are on Tuesday, October 10 and Thursday, November 9.
The final exam is at 1:10pm on Monday, December 4.