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Mathematics and Numeracy for Liberal Arts Students

There are many courses aimed at liberal arts students that are specifically designed to fulfil their mathematics requirement, including courses with titles such as “Math for Life” or “Math for Liberal Arts”. These have two main goals: the first is to ensure a sufficient level of numeracy amongst such students and the second is to enable the development of a positive attitude towards mathematics. These courses are often the last classroom experience of mathematics that such students will have, and therefore can have a long-term impact on their comfort level and opinions of mathematics. I have experimented with different teaching approaches at various institutions, aiming to strike a balance between emphasising practical skills and exploring more advanced topics to improve student engagement. In this talk I will describe my experiences and challenges in teaching these students, share how they changed preconceptions about non-STEM students, and discuss approaches that were successful.