This is the syllabus for Mathematics 4389, Section 001, for the Spring Semester, 2001.

**Text:** Error-Correcting Codes and Finite Fields, by Oliver Pretzel, (ISBN 0192690671).

**Instructor:** Tomasz Przebinda, Room 524, PHSC; home page: http://crystal.ou.edu/; e-mail: tprzebinda@math.ou.edu; tel: 325-0830
Office hours: Monday 11:00-12:00 AM, Thursday 3:00-4:00 PM.

**Lectures:** You are expected to attend all lectures, and are responsible for all information given out during them. In particular, this includes any changes of dates tests, grading policies, or homework assignments.

**Testing:** There will be three midterm exams during the class period on Tuesdays: February 13, March 13, and April 17. The final exam will be as scheduled in the general OU syllabus: Monday, May 7, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. University regulations require that you take the final exam at this time. Do not arrange travel plans that prevent you from attending the final exam.

If the test is missed for any reason, it cannot be taken later, but its weight (20%) will automatically be added to the weight of the final exam. Under extraordinary circumstances, if you cannot take a test at the scheduled time, you should contact me in advance of the test time.

**Homework:** There will be weekly assignments (posted on my home page, http://crystal.ou.edu/), to be handed in on Tuesday at the beginning of the class. Please hand in your homework on time (Tuesdays 12:00); late assignments cannot be accepted.

**Final grade:** the final grade is the better of the following two options:
(a) final exam 50% + midterms 40/3% + 40/3% + 40/3% + homework 10%
(b) final exam 90% + homework 10%

**Academic Misconduct:** Cases of academic misconduct are inexcusable, will be reported to the dean, and will be punished under University regulations. Don’t do it.

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student having a disability that may interfere with the demonstration of his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible to arrange accommodations necessary to ensure full participation in the course.

**Grade of Incomplete:** The grade of “I” is a special-purpose grade given when a specific task needs to be completed to finish the course work. This is typically a term paper or other special assignment, so rarely makes sense in a mathematics course. An “I” cannot be given to avoid a low grade in cases where the course work is not strong.