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**Carl Lutzer\*** (cvlisma@rit.edu) and **Bernard Brooks** (bpbsma@rit.edu). *The Mathematics of Politics & Power as an alternative to Trigonometry.*

We present an interdisciplinary mathematics course for students in non-technical majors. Such students have traditionally fulfilled general education requirements by taking courses such as College Algebra and Trigonometry, which have little relevance to their career goals, and often highlight students' weaknesses rather than helping them to apply their strengths in a broader discipline. The end result is that, instead of developing intellectual maturity, students in algebra or trigonometry courses merely cement their dislike of mathematics. The course we developed focuses on rational decision making in politics and other contexts of social choice. A major component of the grade was determined by student presentations and essays which allowed the non-technical demographic to more clearly demonstrate their mastery of mathematical concepts and critical thinking in a quantitative context. Topics included the Cuban missile crisis, rationality and (in) the Bible, and the cold war. (Received September 22, 2006)