

1145-O5-2980      **Alex D Austin\*** (aaustin@math.ucla.edu). *Reinventing the Graduate Boot Camp*.

All students accepted to the UCLA graduate program are invited to attend a five-week intensive summer course called the ‘graduate boot camp’. Its purpose is to prepare the students to pass the Basic Exam, the first hurdle to be cleared in order to progress through the program (it uses not-so-basic questions to examine knowledge of undergraduate linear algebra and analysis). For many years it has been taught (typically by senior faculty) using a traditional lecture course format. This past summer another postdoc and I led the boot camp using an inquiry-based learning format. We incorporated elements that went beyond exam preparation with the aim of fostering the development of peer networks and an increased readiness for teaching assistant responsibilities. Student response to the new format has been very positive. I will discuss our methods and conclusions and the talk should appeal to others considering a similar approach. (Received September 26, 2018)