

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP C1, MAA Session on Courses Below Calculus: A New Focus, I

1003-C1-1114 **Brian J Birgen*** (brian.birgen@wartburg.edu), 100 Wartburg Blvd, P.O. Box 1003, Waverly, IA 50677-0903. *Teaching Finite Mathematics using Elementary Mathematical Modeling*. Preliminary report.

At Wartburg College, Finite Mathematics is a course populated primarily by Business majors, Biology majors and Computer Information Systems majors. The collection of topics typically covered is a smattering of unrelated topics, ranging from matrices and linear programming to probability to interest rates and annuities. This wide range of topics tended to make the course unfocused, and student perception was that of yet another irrelevant math course. At Wartburg College we have reinvented this course, by focusing on Mathematical Modeling. The primary topics are still covered, but with an emphasis on solving "Real-world" problems and more in-depth projects. This presentation will focus on the benefits, the practicality and the hurdles associated with this course revision. (Received October 04, 2004)