



The Math/Stats Colloquium
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
San José State University



Richard Kubelka
SJSU

Zombie Outbreak! Will You Survive?
Just Do the Math

OCTOBER 9, 2019, MH320

Abstract: Stressed-out by the prospect of a zombie apocalypse? Wondering whether you really need to hoard water, flashlight batteries, ramen noodles, Pringles®? Come to this talk to learn about some standard approaches to modelling epidemics: Calculus via an elementary differential equation; computer simulation with a re-tooled model originally used to describe chemical reactions; and network theory. Each approach has its advantages and its deficiencies, and in the process of examining them we'll see how we need to progressively refine our assumptions as we develop a mathematical model of the epidemic. The results just might put us at ease about our likelihood of becoming zombie bait. Or not.

Background: Calculus I and Discrete Math.

About the speaker: Richard Kubelka is a Professor of Mathematics at SJSU, where he has been teaching since the 20th century. He was educated at Georg August Universität, Germany; UC Berkeley; and Stanford University. His mathematical interests include algebraic topology and number theory, and he collects dictionaries on the side.

SNACKS IN MH331B AT 2:30 PM

TALK STARTS AT 3:00 PM

For more information, see our full schedule at:

<http://www.timhsu.net/colloq/>