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# SYLLABUS

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## The Yoho GRE Preparation Course

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### Introduction

The GRE is a test of general reasoning ability. Luckily, the types of reasoning tasks on the GRE are limited in number and so the test is *highly* predictable. In essence, the questions with which a test-taker will be greeted on test day simply are modified versions of the same GRE questions that are available on practice tests.

Proper preparation, then, has the following components:

- \* Coming to understand why the right answers are right and the wrong answers are wrong.
- \* Applying a sensible procedural approach to the test that will maximize one's score.  
And,
- \* Practicing applying these procedures after the course to *real* GRE questions until one's practice scores peak.

A *good* preparation course supplies information about the first two of these. A good *test-taker* handles the third.

### About the Instructor

Dr. James Yoho has been teaching well-regarded test preparation since 1996 at the request of such institutions as Penn State, La Salle, Lehigh, Marist, Binghamton, Rutgers, and

Temple. Now a full-time coach on standardized tests of general reasoning ability (like the GRE), he has 12 years of experience teaching at colleges and universities, including graduate school. He holds a law degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in government from the University of Virginia. Well-published in law, political science, and test preparation, his principal research interests are in the areas of American constitutional law, interest groups, and the strategic dynamics of standardized tests.

## Course Outline

### *First Quarter*

- \* The nature of the GRE General Test and how it fits into the larger picture of graduate school admissions
  - \* The keys to success on the GRE General Test
  - \* Why we aren't referring to just "the GRE"
  - \* A short history of the GRE General Test
  - \* Recent GRE-taking and graduate admission trends
  - \* Factors in graduate school admissions
  - \* The basic structure of the GRE General Test
  - \* The order of the GRE
  - \* What types of scores are given on the GRE
  - \* What sort of GRE scores are necessary for admission
  - \* The relationship between the scaled section scores and the percentile
  - \* How many right answers are necessary in order to get a certain score on the GRE
  - \* The relationship between the Analytical Writing Score and the percentile
  - \* Grade inflation over the years
  - \* Undergraduate grades and graduate school admissions
  - \* A suggested procedure for obtaining letters of recommendation
  - \* Suggestions for your personal statement
- \* How to use the computer and approach test questions in general
  - \* How the computer works
  - \* General strategies –including pacing –for the GRE
  - \* The components of a GRE question
  - \* The four most common mistakes on the GRE
  - \* Suggestions for managing the text
  - \* Suggestions for managing the question directions
  - \* Suggestions for managing the answer options
  - \* How to practice and improve
  - \* How to control anxiety

- \* Start on the Reading Comprehension question type
  - \* Types of Reading Comprehension questions
  - \* The rules for Reading Comprehension
  - \* How to tackle a Reading Comprehension passage
  - \* Review of sample passages

### *Second Quarter*

- \* Finish the Reading Comprehension question type
  - \* A primer on assumptions and inferences
  - \* Review of more sample passages
- \* The Sentence Completions question type
  - \* The procedures for Sentence Completions
  - \* The most common types of errors in Sentence Completions sentences
  - \* Review of sample questions
- \* The Analogies question type
  - \* The procedures for Analogies
  - \* How to tackle Analogies questions
  - \* A primer on analogies
  - \* Some options if, at first, you don't recognize a word
  - \* A list of common roots
  - \* A list of common prefixes
  - \* A list of common suffixes
  - \* Review of sample questions
- \* The Antonyms question type
  - \* The procedures for Antonyms
  - \* Review of sample questions

### *Third Quarter*

- \* The Analytical Writing Measure and how it fits into the larger picture of graduate school admissions
  - \* Basic information about the GRE Analytical Writing Measure
  - \* The Issue Task
  - \* The Argument Task
  - \* Concerning writing mechanics

- \* Start the Quantitative Comparison question type
  - \* So how much math do I need to know on the GRE, anyway?
  - \* The general rules for GRE math
  - \* Some general considerations for Quantitative Comparison
  - \* How to tackle a Quantitative Comparison question
  - \* Review of sample questions

### ***Fourth Quarter***

- \* Finish the Quantitative Comparison question type
  - \* Take a 15-minute timed section
  - \* Review 15-minute timed section
- \* The Problem Solving question type
  - \* The ground rules for Problem Solving
  - \* Review of sample questions
- \* Conclusion: What should happen from now until test day