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**G. Edgar Parker\*** (parkerge@jmu.edu), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, James Madison University, MSC 1911, Harrisonburg, VA 22807. *Teaching the Nature of Applied Mathematics*. Preliminary report.

At James Madison University, a course entitled **The Nature of Mathematics** has been offered since 1985 and satisfies the General Education mathematics requirement at the university. Pre-requisite to the course is to be admitted to the university. Over its lifespan, the course, when under the author's care, has evolved into a platform (presented with varying curricula) for the students to experience axiomatics by making arguments themselves, first within their own procedural experience and then from "axioms" outside their educational experience. Providing a version that highlights applied mathematics, yet maintains the student activity level that the "pure" version affords has provided a greater challenge, but over the last decade the author has come up with such a course with which he is reasonably pleased. This talk will feature the structure of the current "nature of applied mathematics" course and highlight experiences from the applied version of the course. (Received September 08, 2009)