

1077-H1-2053      **Jason Rosenhouse\*** (rosenhjd@jmu.edu) and **Laura Taalman** (laurataalman@gmail.com). *A Sampler of Sudoku Studies.*

If you peruse the puzzle page of a typical in-flight magazine or local newspaper, there are two things you are likely to see. One is a Sudoku puzzle. The other is a message to the reader, no doubt meant to be comforting, that solving a Sudoku puzzle does not require any mathematics. That message notwithstanding, mathematicians have certainly found much of interest in Sudoku puzzles. A substantial research literature of Sudoku studies now exists. In this talk we give an overview of a few highlights from this literature. We also suggest ways in which Sudoku studies can be used for pedagogical purposes. Many topics introduced in higher-level mathematics classes arise naturally from a consideration of Sudoku-related questions. (Received September 21, 2011)