

**Math 386–01                      Spring, 2012**  
**Junior Seminar**  
**CRN: 22404**  
**Thursday 3:30pm to 5:00pm**  
**Ohlendorf 225**

Instructor:                      Dr. Christopher Seaton  
Office:                              320 Ohlendorf Hall  
Office Hours:                    M 3:00pm—4:00pm  
    W 2:00pm—3:00pm  
    TR 11:00am—12:15pm                      *or by appointment*  
Phone:                              x3721  
E-mail:                              [seatonc@rhodes.edu](mailto:seatonc@rhodes.edu)  
Web:                                  <http://faculty.rhodes.edu/seaton/>

**Course Description:**

This course is meant to emphasize the unity and power of mathematics by applying the extended ideas drawn from courses required for all majors. Topics will be determined by a consultation among the students enrolled and the supervising faculty member.

**Responsibilities:**

Your primary responsibility for this course will be to beginning the work and planning of your senior seminar project, which should be closely supervised by a member of the mathematics faculty (and, in some cases, faculty members of other departments or institutions). To propose your project, you will be required to give **one 10-minute oral presentation** during the spring semester and turn in **a project proposal** summarizing your work at the end of the semester. The presentations will be scheduled early in the semester; the proposal will be **due on April 23, 2012**.

In addition, you are required to participate by attending lectures in the senior seminar, faculty seminar, and other venues, completing brief assignments given in the seminar meetings, as well as other activities discussed in the Participation section of the grading protocol. You will hand in a brief written summary of these activities for which you will receive credit.

**Project Proposal:**

This should be a short (2—3 page) description of the work you intend to pursue as your senior seminar project. It should explain the classification of your project (pure, applied, interdisciplinary, etc.; see the grading protocol), your faculty advisor(s), a description of the background and goals of the project, and an approximate schedule of activities.

**Presentations:**

Your presentation should be an introduction to the topic you plan to pursue. It should consist primarily of background material on the topic and must include a discussion of your plan. The appropriate level of detail of the plan will depend on the nature of the project.

**Office Hours:**

You are encouraged to visit my office hours (above) with any questions or concerns you may develop. If my office hours are inconvenient for you, you may make an appointment. A schedule (including my off-campus phone number) is posted on my web page (URL above) to facilitate scheduling appointments.

### Meetings

Unless otherwise notified, you are required to attend the Thursday meetings. We will use these meetings to present our work as well as to discuss the communication of mathematical research, including improving our presentations and writing. Unexcused absences for meetings will lead to a reduction in your participation grade.

### Grading:

Your letter grade will be determined based on the department's Grading Protocol for junior seminar, which is attached. Succinctly, your grade out of 16 points will be the rounded sum of the four following grades:

- **Content:** The content grade will be determined in consultation with your faculty supervisor.
- **Independence:** The independence grade will be determined in consultation with your faculty supervisor.
- **Participation:** I will determine your participation grade based on the activities you report to me. Write-ups of talks and other activities are **due on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012**; the exception is talks related to URCAS, which I will accept on or before **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. Note that in order to receive the maximum participation grade, you must satisfy **all** of the following:
  - Attend **4** talks related to mathematics and submit a summary of each.
  - Give **one** 10-minute presentation in the junior seminar (worth 2 points).
  - Earn a total of 8 points during your junior spring semester.
- **Communication:** Your communication grade will be computed as 60% of your presentation grade and 40% of your proposal.

### Honor Code:

All students are expected to conduct themselves within the guidelines of the College's Honor Code. Please ask me if you have any questions about what is allowed. I reserve the right to reduce a student's grade in the event of plagiarism whose intent cannot be verified.

### Students With Disabilities:

If you have or think you may have a documented disability, please contact me and the Office of Student Disability Services as early in the semester as possible.