Math/Computer Science 485  Senior Seminar  Fall 2000

Coordinator:  Kennan Shelton  Time and Place:  T 3-4:30, OH 225 (or elsewhere as needed)
Office:  318 Ohlendorf  Office Hours:  TTH 10-11:30, 4:30-5:30
Office Phone:  843-3721  (always by appointment)
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Course Description: The Department's goal is to produce majors who are knowledgeable, articulate both orally and in writing, and enthusiastic. The Senior Seminar in Mathematics and Computer Science is intended to unify the last four years of the student's undergraduate experience in the Department. It involves working independently on a project that challenges the student and requires the student to look deeply into a subject that he or she may not have studied before. Computer Science students are encouraged to develop projects that place them as software developers with a client who desires a particular product.

The Senior Seminar student will make regular presentations to the class and faculty, produce a high-quality, written final product, such as a research paper or a computer program with documentation if a Computer Science student, and make a public presentation (in the Spring semester) for both specialists and non-specialists alike.

Presentations: At each meeting, two students will each make a presentation of a least 35 minutes and no more than 45 minutes in length. The content of the presentation will be determined by the student in consultation with the faculty advisor. Each student will make three presentations throughout the semester. See the "Suggestions for Senior Seminar Talks" handout for guidelines and pointers on giving a good talk.

After each presentation, the presenter will hand out an appropriate homework assignment to the audience and homework solutions to the advisor. This homework will be due at the beginning of the next seminar meeting. The presenter may answer other students' general questions but may not give direct assistance on the assignment. Any uncertainty may be dealt with by the presenter's advisor. The presenter will consult with the advisor in designing the assignment and will assist in its grading as the advisor sees fit.

It is expected that those in the audience actively engage the material being presented. This means asking questions, proposing solutions, and making comments, in addition to simply taking notes.
Presentation schedule:

Aug. 29    Shelton
Sep. 5     TBA          Oct. 24   Rediker/Kinlaw
Sep. 12    Willson/Elder Oct. 31   Dawkins/Ciccocioppo
Sep. 19    Rediker/Kinlaw Nov. 7   Flores/Brooks
Sep. 26    Dawkins/Ciccocioppo Nov. 14  Willson/Elder
Oct. 3     Flores/Brooks  Nov. 21   Rediker/Kinlaw
Oct. 10    Willson/Elder  Nov. 28   Dawkins/Ciccocioppo
Oct. 17    Fall Break    Dec. 5    Flores/Brooks

Grading: Input from all the faculty will be considered in grading presentations. Semester papers will be read by the advisor and one other faculty member. Your semester grade will be determined by the following items with their relative weight:

- Homework 15%
- Presentations 50%
- Term Paper 25%
- Class participation 10%

Advisors: Each student has been assigned a faculty senior seminar advisor (below). It is expected that students and advisors meet weekly unless other arrangements are explicitly made.

- Brooks/Gottlieb
- Dawkins/Whitt
- Flores/Feil
- Rediker/Feil
- Ciccocioppo/Shelton
- Elder/Shelton
- Kinlaw/Gottlieb
- Willson/Whitt

Attendance: It is important that you attend every seminar meeting. Missing more than two seminars during the semester may result in reduction of grade.

Honor Code: It is expected that each student in this class will conduct him or herself within the guidelines of the Rhodes Honor Code. All academic work should be done with the high level of honesty and integrity that the students and faculty at Rhodes demand. If you have any questions about what is or is not allowed, please ask me.