

**Math 485–01      Fall, 2011**  
**Senior Seminar**  
**CRN: 12404**  
**Thursday 3:30pm to 5:00pm**  
**Ohlendorf 225**

Instructor:            Dr. Christopher Seaton  
Office:                320 Ohlendorf Hall  
Office Hours:        Mon., Wed. 3:00—4:00pm  
                              Tues., Thurs., 2:00—3:00pm  
                              Fri. 1:00—1:50pm            *or by appointment*  
Phone:                x3721  
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**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 the work on your topic, which should be closely supervised by a member of the mathematics faculty (and, in some cases, faculty members of other departments or institutions). To present your work, you will be required to give **two oral presentations** during the fall semester and turn in a **written progress report** towards the end of the semester. The first presentation will take place in September and will be a preliminary discussion of your work. The second presentation in late November or early December will report on your progress. All dates will be determined at our meetings.

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 senior 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.

**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.

### **Putnam Exam and Mathematical Modeling Competition**

Students who commit to participating in the Putnam exam and/or the Mathematical Modeling Competition will be exempt from two of the weekly senior seminar meetings. Participating in one of these activities will count in your Participation grade as the equivalent of attending two mathematical talks; participating in both will count as three talks. No written summary is required, though you will be required to informally discuss these activities with other members of the senior seminar.

### **Grading:**

Your letter grade will be determined based on the department's Grading Protocol for senior seminar, which is attached.

### **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.