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## MATH/COMP 485, Senior Seminar, Fall 2000

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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	Ciccocioppo/Shelton
Dawkins/Whitt	Elder/Shelton
Flores/Feil	Kinlaw/Gottlieb
Rediker/Feil	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.