

## MATH 490

### SENIOR SEMINAR IN MATHEMATICS

(1:15 - 2:30 Tuesday/Thursday)

SPRING 2016

Walters Hall 221

**Course Description** MAT 490. SENIOR SEMINAR IN MATHEMATICS. Exploration of mathematical topics resulting in written and/or oral presentations. Emphasis will be placed on connections among mathematical fields. For senior mathematics majors. 3 credit hours

#### General Course Objectives

This course will provide the student:

1. Practice in reading and comprehending mathematics as found in professional journal articles.
2. Practice in written communication skills through expository writing.
3. Practice in oral communication skills through group discussions.
4. Exposure to diverse areas of mathematics, including recent developments.
5. Insight into the dynamic nature of mathematics and interdependence of its various branches.
6. Insight into the applicability of mathematics in the work environment through presentations of outside speakers and on-sight industrial visits.

#### Activities and Requirements

1. Punctual and regular attendance. The maximum number of absences allowed is seven (7).
2. Student preparation of assignments.
3. Student participation in class discussions.
4. Completion of the portfolio.

#### Evaluation and Grading

A student must meet certain minimal requirements before a passing grade can be earned in this class. A student who fails to satisfy one or more of the requirements that follow will receive a grade of **F** in this course.

Minimal requirements of each student are:

1. Completed portfolio
2. Completed written summaries of journal articles as assigned by the instructor

The final course grade will be computed based on the following percentages:

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Completed portfolio | 33⅓ % |
| Writing assignments | 33⅓ % |
| Class participation | 33⅓ % |

Regular attendance is of extreme importance in this class. If a student accumulates three or four absences, his final course grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Five or six absences will result in the final course grade being lowered by two letter grades. Seven absences will result in lowering the final course grade by three letter grades, and eight absences will result in an automatic F for the course.

## Portfolio Contents

The portfolio for each student will contain the following items.

1. Final examinations from upper-level courses (300 or above)
2. Computer sample such as a program from MATH 210 or any mathematical project involving computer usage
3. Writing samples to include summaries of four journal articles, essay consisting of rationale for decision to pursue mathematics as a major and commentary on experience as a mathematics major at DSU, and mathematical item of choice generated by the student.

Delta State University is committed to a policy of equal employment and educational opportunity. Delta State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status. This policy extends to all programs and activities supported by the University.

**Instructor:** Dr. Clifton Wingard

**Instructor's Office:** Walters Hall 213

**Office Phone:** 846-4510

**E-mail:** [cwingard@deltastate.edu](mailto:cwingard@deltastate.edu)

### Instructor's Office Hours:

| <b>Monday</b>           | <b>Tuesday</b>            | <b>Wednesday</b>        | <b>Thursday</b>           | <b>Friday</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 9:00-10:00<br>1:30-4:30 | 9:30 – 11:30<br>3:00-4:30 | 9:00-10:00<br>1:30-4:30 | 9:30 – 11:30<br>3:00-4:30 | 9:00-10:00    |