

MATHS 498
Senior Seminar

- Section:** 001, 3:20-5:00 Tuesday, RB 118
- Instructor:** Kerry N. Jones (kerryj@math.bsu.edu)
- Office:** RB 473, 285-8658
- Office Hours:** MTWF, 2-3 p.m. and by appointment
- Homework:** Homework problems will be assigned and discussed, but not collected or graded. Without doing the homework, you will be at a significant disadvantage in the discussion that follows.
- Projects:** There will be two papers due during the semester on topics approved in advance. One will be due on 21 October and the other will be due on 9 December (the last day of class). These papers should involve the use of outside sources and will be graded for clarity (including grammar and spelling!), correctness and completeness.
- Grade:** The grade will be determined entirely by the papers and by class participation.
- Text:** none
- Topics:** Generally, we will be looking in class at a variety of mathematical topics that will not have been covered in your mathematical education so far, but which are accessible without much intervening preparation. Each topic will occupy approximately two weeks.
- Topics will (probably) be: Algebraic Number Theory, Coding Theory, Introductory Lebesgue Integration, Introductory Complex Analysis, and Statistical Paradoxes. The other weeks will be occupied with discussion of recreational mathematics and “Broken Calculator Drills” – applications of the mathematics you know without using any external assistance (don’t panic - these are group exercises).
- Other Requirements:** one class meeting will be devoted to taking a standardized test for the purposes of curriculum assessment. Taking the test is a requirement of the course, but your score on the test does not count as part of your grade. I may, however, give bonus points to those scoring above a minimal threshold to ensure that you do your best on the test.
- Other Information:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.
- Course Withdrawal:** The withdrawal period is Saturday, August 30 through 4pm Tuesday, October 28. During this period students can elect to receive a “W” for the course by completing and submitting the proper form. The instructor’s permission is not required. For details, see the current Undergraduate Catalog.