Math 190: Course Information

The goals of this half-course are to:

• Encourage timely progress on the senior thesis in the Fall semester.

• Give students credit for the work they are doing on their theses in the Fall semester.

• Provide a forum for discussion of the mathematics problems which come up during research on theses, apart from one-on-one meetings with the thesis advisor.

• Provide help and practice in giving oral presentations on technical subjects.

• Provide help with some of the nuts-and-bolts aspects of the written thesis.

The final presentations of senior theses will begin on January 27, 2003, and the first drafts of the papers are due on February 5, 2003. This means that virtually all of the research must be done during the Fall semester. The writing process should also be well on its way before Winter Break. This class is intended to help minimize the stress of these deadlines, and to promote high-quality research, presentations, and writing.

Things to do for this course:

1. Get a thesis adviser and a thesis topic. (You need this by NEXT WEEK).

2. Get some preliminary sources, either from your adviser and/or from the library.

3. Prepare a short Thesis Proposal, which you can think of as the abstract for your final paper. (One paragraph: I will hand out an example next week.)

4. Prepare a short (15 minute) oral presentation on the background mathematics necessary to understand your topic.

5. Prepare a short (15 minute) oral presentation on the content or hoped-for results of your thesis.

6. Write a draft of the first chapter, or first section of your thesis. This will be handed in to me by December 11, the last day of classes.

7. Come to class each week. This is important if you want to pass.