

1014-H1-1476 **Albert W Schueller***, Department of Mathematics, Whitman College, 345 Boyer Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362. *The senior project as a method of teaching writing and oral presentation.* Preliminary report.

The mathematics department recently adopted a senior project course requirement. The goals of the new requirement are to give graduating mathematics students an independent research experience, to provide a forum for discussing mathematics, and to develop skills in mathematical exposition. The structure of the new course is motivated by and modeled after a similar course run by Curtis Feist and Kemble Yates at Southern Oregon University in which a single department member manages all of the students in a three credit class while the remaining department members each take on an equitable number of the students to direct in their projects. The content of the course is motivated by a variety of sources including the Senior Study program at Maryville College. Students meet in class together three times a week with the course manager to present their recent progress orally. Students also submit weekly written progress reports. Emphasis is placed on techniques of oral presentation and mathematical writing. The logistics of managing the course, the course content, and evaluation methods are discussed. (Received September 28, 2005)