

# Senior Colloquium – MTH 490

Southern Oregon University  
Spring 2024

## Course Information:

Time: TR | 1:30pm – 3:30pm  
Room: Science 122  
Office Hours: MWF | 1:30pm – 2:30pm

## Instructor Information:

Name: Prof. Brandon Ashley, Ph.D.  
Office: Science 180  
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**Course Description:** This course is the second of a two-part sequence in which students are expected to conduct independent research (often expository) on a chosen topic in mathematics, statistics, or mathematics education. Throughout this course, students are expected to

- (1) continue working with their capstone advisor to complete their capstone project,
- (2) submit multiple drafts of their capstone paper and participate in peer editing,
- (3) prepare their capstone presentation and provide feedback for others,
- (4) submit a final, edited copy of their capstone paper (20-30 pages),
- (5) give their (~ 15 mins) capstone presentation .

*Remark:* For many of you, this style of course will be very new. It is imperative that you have the self-discipline to work on your topic and make substantial progress each week. You should expect to devote a minimum of 10 hours per week working on your topic. It is suggested that students produce weekly notes on the material studied which include proofs of relevant theorems, definitions, and examples of key ideas. Note that it is your responsibility to meet with your capstone advisor when you are stuck or confused.

**Grading Scheme:** The overall grade for this course will be based upon student performance and progress as assessed by individual meetings with their advisor, participation in group meetings, the final presentation, and the completed capstone paper.

Course letter grades will be determined according to the following scale. Any curve will be determined at the end of the course at the discretion of the instructor.

Grade	A	A–	B+	B	B–	C+	C	C–	D+	D	F
Lower Limit	94	90	87	84	80	77	74	70	67	60	0

**Individual Meetings:** Students are expected to individually meet with their capstone advisor for a minimum of 20 minutes each week at a regularly scheduled time. During these meetings, students should bring written notes, writing samples, problems they've been working on, questions, etc. Students should recognize that it is not the capstone advisor's role to solve their problems, but rather to provide advice on moving forward.

To help maintain some record of these meetings, students will submit a weekly report (a template will be provided) detailing their progress for that week, a summary of the meeting, and their goals for the upcoming week.

**Group Meetings:** Students are expected to give four brief (5-15 minute) presentations throughout the term. Initial presentations are meant to be informal and help to build student confidence while speaking in front of their peers. During these presentations, students should highlight their progress made, specific problems they've been working on, challenges, etc. As the term progresses, students will begin practicing their capstone presentation and providing peer feedback.

**Course Schedule:** A tentative course schedule is provided below.

Week	Tues.	Activity	Thurs.	Activity
1	4/2	Introduction/Planning	4/4	Individual Meetings
2	4/9	— Optional Peer Meeting —	4/11	Individual Meetings
3	4/16	<b>Group Presentation 1</b>	4/18	Individual Meetings
4	4/23	— Optional Peer Meeting —	4/25	Individual Meetings
5	4/30	<b>Group Presentation 2</b>	5/2	Individual Meetings
6	5/7	— Optional Peer Meeting —	5/9	Individual Meetings
7	5/14	<b>Group Presentation 3</b>	5/16	Individual Meetings
8	5/21	— Optional Peer Meeting —	5/23	Individual Meetings
9	5/28	<b>Group Presentation 4</b>	5/30	Individual Meetings
10	6/4	— TBA —	6/6	Individual Meetings
F	6/11	— <b>Capstone Paper Due</b> —	6/13	No Meeting

**Raider Reminder:** Even with all of the changes to our learning and co-curricular environments, we remain upstanding Raiders who abide by the Code of Student Conduct and Equal Opportunity, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy. Make sure that any contact with others is wanted, that any recording is done with informed consent of any other party, and that it involves no illegal downloads or activity.

In addition, we remain committed to the University's mission and values. We provide a healthy, safe and civil campus; respectful, inclusive, and equitable interactions in our virtual classrooms; and no tolerance for racist, sexist, or other forms of hurtful discourse.

**COVID-19 Response:** We continue to monitor national and regional developments regarding Covid-related guidelines. We also monitor and modify our internal SOU policies and procedures to reflect the changes to Jackson County Public Health, OHA and CDC's guidelines. Please review the revised vaccine policy and protocols.

To reduce risk to the campus community, all staff, faculty, students, and visitors are required to adhere to SOU's face covering policy. We will continue our efforts to keep all members of the SOU community safe; those efforts will include attempts to limit contact between individuals and may include restricted access to buildings and other spaces on campus. Please follow all guidelines provided on SOU's COVID-19 pages and adhere to campus building closures and restrictions. Should these guidelines be adjusted, SOU will communicate any adjusted expectations to all students.

**Financial Aid Notice:** Students who receive federal financial aid are required to attend and participate in all of the courses for which they register, starting with the first week of class. For face-to-face courses, in-person attendance is necessary. The US Department of Education (USDE) describes the following activities as indicators of attendance and active participation (see the formal rules at the USDE website):

- Attending a synchronous class, lecture, recitation, or field or laboratory activity where there is an opportunity for interaction between the instructor and students;
- Submitting an assignment;
- Taking an assessment or an exam;
- Participating in an interactive tutorial or webinar;
- Participating in an assigned study group, group project or an online discussion; or
- Interacting with an instructor about academic matters.

The following activities are not considered by the USDE to be indicators of first-week engagement:

- Living in campus housing or using an institutional meal plan,

- Logging into an online class or tutorial without any further participation, or
- Participating in academic counseling or advising.

Instructors will report students who are absent during the first week of an in-person course or those who do not participate in an online course as described above. Any students who are reported as no-shows will have their financial aid status reviewed and their award may be adjusted as a result.

**SOU Cares Notes and Equity Grievance Reports:** SOU has a wide range of resources to help you succeed. Our faculty, staff, and administration are dedicated to providing you with the best possible support. The SOU Cares System allows us to connect you with staff members who can assist with concerns and connect you to further available resources. This includes concerns regarding finances, food security, health, housing, mental health, wellbeing, legal concerns, family concerns, study skills, time management, etc. You are also welcome to use the SOU Cares System to share concerns about yourself, a friend, or a classmate. Go to [www.sou.edu/cares](http://www.sou.edu/cares) to submit a note of concern.

The Dean of Students' Office and the Office of Equity Grievance provide recourse for students through the Student Code of Conduct, Equal Opportunity, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy, and other applicable policies, regulations, and laws. SOU's Equity Grievance Program addresses concerns about sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, intimate partner violence, bias and discrimination for students, staff and faculty. Reports related to sexual misconduct, assault, harassment, or bias may be made anonymously or confidentially by completing this form.

**Academic Honesty Statement and Code of Student Conduct:** Students are expected to maintain academic integrity and honesty in completion of all work for this class. According to SOU's Student Code of Conduct: "Acts of academic misconduct involve the use or attempted use of any method that enables a student to misrepresent the quality or integrity of his or her academic work and are prohibited."

Such acts include, but are not limited to: copying from the work of another, and/or allowing another student to copy from one's own work; unauthorized use of materials during exams; intentional or unintentional failure to acknowledge the ideas or words of another that have been taken from any published or unpublished source; placing one's name on papers, reports, or other documents that are the work of another individual; submission of work resulting from inappropriate collaboration or assistance; submission of the same paper or project for separate courses without prior authorization by faculty members; and/or knowingly aiding in or inciting the academic dishonesty of another.

Any incident of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action(s) as outlined in SOU's Code of Student Conduct. In case of loss, theft, destruction or dispute over authorship, always retain a copy of any work you produce and submit for grades. Retain all work that has been graded and returned to you.

**Emergency Notifications:** SOU is committed to a safe community. Student, faculty and staff emails are automatically enrolled in SOU Alert, the campus emergency communication system. In the event of emergency, closure, or other significant disruption to campus operations, such as inclement weather, messages are delivered via SOU Alert. To ensure timely notification, students, faculty, staff are strongly encouraged to visit Inside SOU to register their cell phone numbers and/or add family members to the system. Campus Public Safety is available 24 hours/day by dialing 541-552-6911. CPS responds to safety concerns, incidents, and emergencies and can provide safety escorts to on-campus locations. CPS works in collaboration with Ashland Police and Fire.

**Statement on Title IX and Mandatory Reporting:** Federal law requires that employees of institutions of higher learning (faculty, staff and administrators) report to a Title IX officer any time they become aware that a student is a victim or perpetrator of gender-based bias, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking. Further, Oregon law requires a mandatory report to law enforcement of any physical or emotional abuse of a child or other protected person, including elders and people with disabilities, or when a child or other protected person is perceived to be in danger of physical or emotional abuse. If you are the victim of sexual or physical abuse and wish to make a confidential disclosure please use SOU's confidential advising or SOU's Anonymous Harassment, Violence, and Interpersonal Misconduct Reporting Form.

**SOU Academic Support/Disability Resources:** To support students with disabilities in acquiring accessible books and materials, and in planning their study and time management strategies, SOU requires all professors to include information regarding Academic Support and Disability Resources on course syllabi. It is the policy of Southern Oregon University that no otherwise qualified person shall, solely by reason of disability, be denied access to, participation in, or benefits of any service, program, or activity operated by the University. Qualified persons

shall receive reasonable accommodation/ modification needed to ensure equal access to employment, educational opportunities, programs, and activities in the most appropriate, integrated setting, except when such accommodation creates undue hardship on the part of the provider. These policies comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other applicable federal and state regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.

If you are in need of support because of a documented disability (whether it be learning, mobility, psychiatric, health-related, or sensory) you may be eligible for academic or other accommodations through Disability Resources. See the Disability Resources webpage for more information or to schedule an appointment. If you are already working with Disability Resources, make sure to request your accommodations for this course as quickly as possible to ensure that you have the best possible access.

**Statement on Military and Other Forms of Active Service Duty:** Pursuant to Oregon law, any student enrolled at a public university who is a member of the military, state National Guard, or other federal or state service protected by ORS 352.293 who is ordered to active duty for more than 30 consecutive days has the right to request accommodation for such service, subject to the conditions and requirements of applicable Oregon law or regulation. Such accommodations may include, but are not limited to, the right to withdraw from a course without penalty, a grade of Incomplete and option to complete at a later date once service has concluded, and/or the right to credit for any tuition and fees already paid, depending on the student's status.

Any student enrolled at a public university who is a member of the military, state National Guard, or other federal or state service protected by ORS 352.293 who is ordered to active duty for fewer than 30 consecutive days and misses a course session, assignment, examination or other course work due to serving on active duty or is receiving medical treatment for an injury sustained on active duty has the right to request accommodation for their service or medical treatment, subject to the conditions and requirements of applicable Oregon law or regulation. Such accommodations may include, but are not limited to, the right to submit any missed examination, assignment or other course requirement upon completion of service or treatment; and/or the right to have a course grade assigned without submitting missed assignment or examinations, should the instructor determine that sufficient work has been assessed for the determination of a grade. Any student who expects to be called for active duty should contact instructors as soon as possible to discuss accommodations.