1 Senior Project Information

All students are required to complete a one-credit-hour independent study course during the senior year. The student works under the direction of a departmental faculty member and presents the results of his or her work, orally and in a written report.

1. Your first responsibility is to identify a professor who will work with you on your senior project. At the end of this document, you will find some ideas for projects that faculty members have submitted. You are not limited to these topics or professors. A good way to get started is to visit a professor whose class you enjoyed.

Or here is another possibility: you have an idea on which you have already worked a bid. Go to the professors who may be interested and tell them about what you want to do. Your idea may be easy or not that mature yet. Do not hesitate if you want to be brave.

Tell him/her that you are doing your senior project this semester and ask if he/she would work on it with you. Tell him what topics you want to work him. Ask him what topics he wants to consider. Some professors work with several students at a time, so if you hear that someone is working a particular professor, you can still ask him/her about working with you.

If you get a "No" answer, just go ask someone else. Feel free to talk to me if you are having trouble with this part.

But you see, that process is part of the deal. You need to find somebody to work with at the start of the semester–within ca. two weeks. I will not give a grade of Incomplete just because you did not begin work on your project in a timely manner. In other words: you will have to withdraw if no beginning has been found.

2. With your project professor, set up a schedule for meetings and make sure you understand what the professor expects from you. What kinds of products are expected? How long? References? How many? If you are solving problems, how many? In what form should you turn in your work? Don’t be afraid to ask what the professor expects for A-level work.

3. Let me know as soon as possible, who you are working with and what the topic is that you are working on. Send an email with this information to:

frothe@uncc.edu

I will not give a grade of Incomplete just because you did not begin work on your project in a timely manner.
4. The common responsibility of you and your professor is to work together hard enough that lack of progress does not lead to a bad mid-term grade.

5. You can work on the senior project together with a partner student. You need to come to an agreement to distribute time and topic about evenly between you and your partner. You and your partner have to turn in two separate written presentations. For the oral presentation, a pair gets 30 min. Once more, the topic needs to be distributed in a useful way between you and your partner. Clearly, you should not just repeat what your partner said a minute ago.

6. In the second half of the semester think more concretely about the way to present your project. Make your project and the way to present it concise enough to fit into 20 minutes. Keep in mind that more is not to be expected from you. I want to warn you in case you want to use videos: This is your own project presentation, and it cannot be replaced by a video. Hence a video clip that you include should be short and informative for the project. Ask you professor for help with the presentation, and discuss with him the details.

7. Immediately after the spring break or fall break, I will send out a schedule of small group meetings. At these small group meetings, you will make a brief (15 to 20 minutes) presentation of your work on your project. In each free one-hour time-slot, three students can give their presentations.

You will need to get with your professor and decide on which time suits both of you. Mark your three best choices of presentation time—suiting both of you—and rank these times by your preference. Send this information immediately to me, either in person or by email to frothe@uncc.edu

8. A written version of your project is requested and has to be turn in before the exam week. I find it a good opportunity for you to use \TeX or \LaTeX as a system for the written version of your project. \LaTeX is the standard system used worldwide for all mathematical and scientific publications. If you are business-oriented, you may prefer a power-point presentation. But Microsoft Word is not very good at writing mathematics—to me it sends a message that you are more a business than a math person. There are further possibilities. Simply handwriting in OK, too.

9. One more point about grades: Your grade is determined by 3 things - the written paper that you turn in at the end of the semester, the oral presentation, and your participation throughout the semester. Not meeting the standards set by your professor on any one of these may result in the lowering of your grade.

10. Grades: As instructors of record, Dr.Kim Harris and Dr.Franz Rothe, are entering the grades at the end of the semester. However, your project professor is primarily responsible for assigning the grade that you receive. If some concerns about
the written paper or your presentation arise, we discuss these with your project professor before the grade is assigned.