

962-I1-28

Suzanne M Molnar* (smmolnar@stkate.edu), , St. Paul, MN 55105. *A Non Textbook-based, Writing Intensive Senior Seminar.*

Since 1993 the Department of Mathematical Sciences has required its majors to complete a 4-credit course, MATH 485 Senior Seminar, taken in the spring of the senior year. The following outcomes for this course were identified by the faculty during its development: - Students improve their ability to write mathematics - Students develop oral communication skills - Students are exposed to mathematics in journals accessible to undergraduates and in expository works - Students learn that mathematics is not compartmentalized, by having to assimilate knowledge from several fields in order to solve problems, read an article, or write a paper. - Students are exposed to the history of mathematics and women's role in it - Faculty learn new mathematics and keep up to date in current journals as we prepare to help our students. The means by which these objectives are met and evaluated, the successes and challenges of leading student participation in this non textbook-based course will be outlined. The strength of the seminar is the potential to bring together mathematical connections within mathematics and its interplay with other disciplines. Suggested readings and resources will be given, based upon the instructor's and students' interests from the most recent seminar. (Received June 23, 2000)