

M192.1 (63246)  
First Year Seminar in Mathematics  
Fall 2007

**Simon Tavener** 107 Weber Building. ph: 491-6452.  
email: [tavener@math.colostate.edu](mailto:tavener@math.colostate.edu)

**Class** 4:00pm–4:50pm TR in Engr. E. 203.

**Office hours** 4:00pm–5:00pm W

**Class URL** <http://www.math.colostate.edu/~tavener/M192/index.shtml>

**Grading Policy** There will be regular homework, a term paper and a poster presentation. Teams of two will collaborate in writing the term paper and preparing and presenting the poster. Homework will account for 60% of the overall grade, the written term paper for 20% and the poster for 20%.

**Text** There is no text for this course. Please come to class and take notes.

**Term paper - “The very best of” modern mathematics** What are the Abel Prize, Wolf Prize and the Fields Medals? Who receive these awards and what for? Select a recipient of one of these awards and prepare a brief (2-3 page) biography. Where were they educated? What did they accomplish in order to receive their award? Where are they now? You are expected to cite your references and to provide definitions of the mathematical terms you use.

*Drafts due: Thursday, Sept. 18.*

*Final version due: Thursday, October 4.*

**Poster session** Thursday, October 11.

**Guest lectures** There will be seven guest lectures - see class schedule on web page

**Proofs** *“I mean the word proof not in the sense of the lawyers, who set two half proofs equal to a whole one, but in the sense of a mathematician, where half proof = 0, and it is demanded for proof that every doubt becomes impossible.”* Karl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855)