You are invited to join us for the first department colloquium:

**Title:** On some invariants and approximation results in algebraic topology

**Speaker:** Scott Wilson, Queens College Mathematics

**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2009 from 12:15–1:05

**Location:** Kiely 326

**Abstract:** In algebraic topology one studies interesting algebraic structures and invariants that can be associated to spaces (e.g. the circle, sphere, etc.). In this talk I will describe one of these classical objects, which can be defined by carefully counting how one “chops up” spaces. Generalizations of it to higher invariants (related to topological field theories) will also be described. With time permitting, I also plan to discuss how this primitive idea of chopping up spaces can also be used to obtain approximation results in several settings.

I plan to make much of this talk accessible to undergraduates.

For more information and upcoming speakers, visit [http://qc.edu/math/colloq.html](http://qc.edu/math/colloq.html). Contact chanusa@qc.cuny.edu to speak in the colloquium or to be added to the mailing list.