

MATH 426 -- History of Mathematics

Fall 2013

**The class meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
from 11:00-11:50 a.m. in Bin-330.**

Instructor: Stuart Anderson

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Text: THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS, an Introduction, 7th Edition, by David M. Burton. ISBN978-0-07-338315-6. The entire text, except for Chapter 9 and selected parts of Chapters 11, 12 and 13, will be covered. Your reading of the text topics should be at least one day ahead of the related lectures.

Course Description: Selected topics in the history of mathematics; the growth of algebra, trigonometry, geometry, and the calculus; the contribution of different cultures; selected biographies of mathematicians. Prerequisites: Math 192 or consent of Instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes: A student who passes this course will demonstrate through essays and solving problems an understanding of the historical development of mathematics, its relation to other sciences, and the progress of civilization. The student will have demonstrated problem solving ability that includes but is not limited to algebra, geometry, calculus and number theory. The student will demonstrate an awareness of the importance of notation and the relevance of mathematics to general education.

Method of Evaluation:

Tests: There will be three tests. Each test will be announced at least one week before it is given. Each will consist of problems, short answer questions (true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, etc.), and essays. These tests will count approximately 65% of your final grade.

Homework: Homework will be assigned on many days. It is expected that you solve all assigned problems and complete all writing assignments. There may occasionally be a quiz given which would count as a homework assignment. There may also be some assignments from the internet links. The homework collected may count a small portion in your grade.

Final: The final exam will be given on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. It will be similar in form to the other tests, but may call for more comprehensive essays. The final exam will count approximately 30% of your final grade.

Make-up work: No late tests will be given. If you miss a test, the final will be used to replace that score. No late homework will be graded and daily quizzes will not be repeated if missed. However, a percentage of the homework and quiz grades will be dropped to cover days when an absence is unavoidable.

Grading Scale:

A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 60-69
F: Below 60

Office Hours: My office is Binnion-321. If you need to see me, do not hesitate to schedule an appointment. If you are having difficulty in the course, please seek help early. I would be glad to help you any time I am available. I will plan to be in my office at the following times:

MW: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.,
TR: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Others, by appointment.

Occasionally, I will be out of my office for meetings or other obligations during scheduled office hours. I will try to let you know of these times early or will leave a note of explanation. Otherwise, you are welcome in my office.

Attendance: It is expected that you will be regular and punctual in attendance. Attendance will be noted daily and may be taken into account in determining your final course grade.

Course Calendar: Week 1 – Chapter 1, Chapter 2: 2.1-2.4
Week 2 – Chapter 2: 2.5-2.6
Week 3 – Chapter 3: 3.1-3.4
Week 4 – Chapter 3: 3.5, Chapter 4.1-4.2
Week 5 – Chapter 4: 4.3
Test 1 – September 27.
Week 6 – Chapter 4: 4.4-4.5
Week 7 – Chapter 5: 5.1-5.3
Week 8 – Chapter 5: 5.4-5.5, Chapter 6: 6.1
Week 9 – Chapter 6: 6.2-6.4
Test 2 – October 28.
Week 10 – Chapter 7: 7.1-7.3

Week 11 – Chapter 8: 8.1-8.3
Week 12 – Chapter 8: 8.4, Chapter 10: 10.1-10.2
Week 13 – Chapter 10: 10.3, Chapter 11: 11.1
Week 14 – Chapter 11: 11.2
Test 3 – November 27.
Week 15 – Chapter 12: 12.1-12.2, Chapter 13: 13.3
Final Exam – December 11. (It is possible that some revision of the above dates may occur as the semester progresses.)

Dropping the Course: It is my hope that no one will want to drop this course. Please keep in mind that the total number of courses dropped for academic reasons during undergraduate studies is limited to six. The last day to drop the course is Thursday, October 31, 2013.

Basic tenets of common decency: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) This means that rude and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please make certain that any cell phone in your possession never rings in class and is never used during class; do not leave class early unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor; do not excuse yourself from class and then return. Failure to comply with these policies can result in a lowering of your grade or expulsion from the course.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu