

Math 190 – History of Mathematics

Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Corey Shanbrom

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Office: Brighton 125

Office Hours: Mon 2-3pm, Weds 4-5pm, Thurs 1-2pm, or by appointment

Lectures: Section 01: MW 12-1:15pm in AMD 240

Prerequisites: Math 31 and upper division status in mathematics. It is your responsibility to prove to me that you have met this prerequisite by the end of the first week of classes; any student who fails to do so will be dropped. I highly recommend waiting to take this class until you have had some upper division mathematics, the more the better, in order to fully appreciate the course content.

Text: There are two required books for this class:

1) Math Through the Ages, 2nd edition, by Berlinghoff and Gouvea

2) Journey Through Genius, by Dunham

We will have weekly readings from these books, due every Monday, starting with MTA and switching to JTG about halfway through the semester. Both are excellent references and quite inexpensive, so I recommend buying instead of renting. Make sure you have the second edition of MTA; the first edition will not suffice. However, the 'expanded edition' is not necessary. There will be random quizzes to check reading comprehension.

Grading: Homework 30%, Special Assignments 30%, Midterms 20%, Final 20%. This is an approximation. Letter grades will be determined by a curve at the instructor's discretion. Quizzes will count toward your homework grade, while in-class work will count toward your Special Assignments grade. This may also include papers, presentations, or group work.

Exams: There will be two midterms, each worth about 10% of your final grade. No notes, books, electronic devices, or bathroom breaks will be permitted during any exam. Exam make-ups will be permitted only in the case of a documented emergency. Midterm dates will depend on our progress, but will be announced at least one week before the exam. The final will be comprehensive and held Weds, May 16, 10:15am – 12:15pm.

Homework: There will be weekly homework assignments based on the readings, due every Wednesday at the start of class. Assignments will be posted to SacCT. Many problems will be assigned – only some will be graded. Exams will include HW problems. Late HW will be accepted at a penalty.

Resources: I am your primary source for help with the material, but other resources are available, including your classmates. You can and should form study groups; these can meet in the Math Lab in Brighton 118. You should read each other's work. Also, other textbooks and websites (eg, Wikipedia, Mathworld, even Youtube) are helpful. I will regularly post helpful documents and websites to SacCT.

Catalog Description: Study of the development of mathematical ideas and techniques and their impact on the general course of the history of western civilization.

Remarks: If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, and discuss your needs with me as soon as possible.

Cheating of any type will result in disciplinary action and an automatic fail. This will show up on future background checks, grad school applications, etc. If you are unsure what constitutes cheating, please see Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy; I have provided a link on SacCT.