

Math 540 – History of Math

Fall 2004

Course Meetings: T-Th 8:00 – 9:15 am

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Office Hours: 10-11 M & W, 9:30-11 T & Th, and by appointment

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Text

The History of Mathematics, an Introduction, by David M. Burton

Topics

This course will survey the development of mathematics, focusing on algebra, geometry, and analysis. Students will use historical methods to solve problems, as well as studying the social settings in which they developed and the influences of individual mathematicians.

Blackboard

You will use the Blackboard online course system to get course assignments and supplemental materials, take quizzes, monitor your grades, and communicate with classmates. Login at blackboard.olemiss.edu. You can find basic instructions for using the system at www.olemiss.edu/blackboard

Homework and Quizzes

Practice problems from the textbook will be given for each lecture. These focus on using historical methods to solve problems. You are expected to work all assigned problems, although not all will be graded.

Homework collected for grading will include both problems from the textbook and short essay style questions. These will be graded on both content and presentation. No late homework will be accepted. You are encouraged to form study groups and to discuss homework problems with your classmates. However, the work you turn in must be your own. That is, everything you write must be in your own words, and you need to understand everything you have written.

Tests

There will be three in-class tests of approximately 50 minutes each. Make-up tests will not be given except under *severe* circumstances. If you must miss a test, you should notify me in writing (e-mail is best) before the scheduled test time.

A cumulative final exam will be given at the time determined by the official exam schedule. (http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/registrar/finals_fall2004.html)

Grade Calculation

Two point distribution schemes are listed below. Your grade will be determined by the higher of the two point totals.

Homework and Quizzes	100 pts
Test 1	100 pts
Test 2	100 pts
Test 3	100 pts
Final Exam	200 pts
	600 pts

Homework and Quizzes	100 pts
Test (highest)	100 pts
Test (second highest)	100 pts
Final Exam	300 pts
	600 pts

Overall score	Minimum grade
≥ 540 (90%)	A
≥ 480 (80%)	B
≥ 420 (70%)	C
≥ 360 (60%)	D

Remember that grades lower than C in mathematics courses will not be counted toward the mathematics major for the B.A. or B. S. degree.

Regrading

If you believe a problem has been graded in error, you must submit a regrade request in writing, along with your paper, no more than one week after that test or assignment is returned in class (or after a grade is recorded for an online assignment). Do not change or add to the work on your paper. Make any necessary notes on a separate sheet.

Attendance

Attendance will be recorded for informational purposes. You are responsible for any material, assignments, or announcements that you miss if absent from a class. No accommodations (e.g. extended office hours, copies of lecture notes, make-up tests, etc.) will be provided. The only exception to this policy is for participation in a University function, documented in advance of the event. Excessive absences may result in the student being dropped from or failing the course.

Academic Misconduct

You are expected to abide by the guidelines for academic honesty given in the M-Book. Sanctions for academic misconduct may include grade reduction, extra work, failure of the course, suspension, expulsion, or a combination of these sanctions. Academic misconduct includes presenting for grading anything which is not your own original work, using unapproved sources for any assignment or test, allowing someone else to copy your work for a graded assignment, or asking for a regrade of a paper that has been altered from its original form. If you study with other students or a tutor, do not look at notes from that study when you write homework to be graded. If you have any doubts about whether something is proper, ask.