

# History of Mathematics

## MAT 593 Section 001

### Spring 2009

Lecturer: Andrew Crabbe  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:40-4:40 PM, Thursdays 2:00-4:00 PM  
Text: *A History of Mathematics*, by Jeff Suzuki, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 2002

**Course Description and Learning goals:** The history of mathematics is a vast and interesting subject, and it's impossible to cover all of it in a single semester. For the purposes of this course, we will begin with the Pythagoreans in Ancient Greece and continue up to the development of calculus by Newton and Leibniz. (This covers roughly Chapters 3 through 13 in the text.) We will use what, if any, time remains to cover topics after this period.

Students are expected to come to class having read the section(s) to be discussed that day and to take part in classroom discussions. Since there are bigger gaps between our Wednesday and Monday classes than between our Monday and Wednesday classes, you would be well advised to plan ahead and take advantage of this in order to complete the readings. The text is a challenging read if you expect to understand it fully.

**Prerequisite:** 12 credits of calculus and at least two 500-level mathematics courses.

#### Grading:

Three Exams	450 points
Homework	200 points
Presentation/Class Participation	100 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>750 points</b>

**Exams:** Most of your grade in the course will be determined by three exams, each worth 150 points. (One of these exams will be given during our final exam period.) The exam schedule is as follows:

- Exam 1: Wednesday, February 11
- Exam 2: Wednesday, March 25
- Exam 3: Friday, May 1, 12:30-2:30PM

The exams will consist primarily of computational problems, short essays, short answer problems and short mathematical proofs. There will be NO make-up exams. A missed exam counts as a zero unless you present a valid excuse from a physician or the Dean's office.

**Homework:** There will be weekly homework sets assigned on Mondays. (These will be posted to our blackboard page.) These sets are to be turned in the following Monday at the beginning of class. From these sets, I'll be selecting two problems to grade; your performance on these two problems will determine your grade for that assignment. Homework will account for a total of 200 points of your final grade.

**Presentation/Class Participation:** Finally, everyone will be required to give a presentation. This will work as follows:

- Each week, I'll announce two presentation topics.
- Each topic will need one volunteer.
- In volunteering, you agree to give a 20-30 minute presentation on that topic in two weeks. (The one exception to this will be in the first week of classes.)

- Everyone must volunteer for a topic at some point during the semester.

A presentation topic will usually be on an important individual or on the mathematics of a particular historical period. See the Presentation FAQ on blackboard for more information. As said above, I also expect you to be involved in class discussions. Your presentation and overall contributions in the classroom will account for 100 points.

**Grading Scale:** Your course grade will be assigned based on the following percentages:

A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82),  
C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D (60-69), F (00-59)

**Academic Integrity:** The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary.