

MAT 593 History of Mathematics Fall 2016. Page 1.

Tu-Th 3:30 – 4:50

Instructor: Professor Steven P. Diaz, Carnegie 317C, x1583, [spdiaz@syr.edu](mailto:spdiaz@syr.edu).

Text: A History of Mathematics Brief Edition by Victor J. Katz, Addison-Wesley, 2004.

Prerequisites: MAT 397 and at least two 500-level math courses or graduate standing in mathematical sciences. You can probably get away with less. See me if you do not have these prerequisites.

Office hours: Tuesday 11:15 am – 12:00, Wednesday 2:15 pm – 3:15, Thursday 2:15 pm – 3:00. Also available by appointment.

Homework: Homework will be assigned during class. It will be due at the beginning of class the Thursday after it is assigned. It will be graded and will count toward the grade for the course. Students are allowed to collaborate on the homework, but each student must hand in her or his own separate assignments. Collaboration includes working on the problem together or giving hints to other students after you have solved it yourself. It does not include letting someone else simply copy your solution.

Tests during term: Thursday October 6, Tuesday November 15, both during the regular class period.

Final exam: Period 06, Tuesday, December 13, 12:45 – 2:45pm. It will be a comprehensive final exam.

Both the two tests during the term and the final will consist of two parts: a closed book part in which no books, notes or calculators are allowed and an open book part in which books, notes and calculators are allowed. No cell phones or other devices capable of wireless communication are allowed. Except in very very exceptional circumstances no make up exams will be given. In most cases, instead, the final exam will count extra. Even for that a very good reason for missing the exam is required.

Term paper: Each student must write a term paper on some subject in the history of mathematics. The paper must be at least 6 pages long typed single-spaced in a typeface no larger than Helvetica 12 point. The student must obtain approval from the instructor of the subject of the term paper no later than Thursday November 3. The term paper is due in class on Thursday December 1. I assume by this point in your studies you know how to properly cite sources in a paper. Failure to properly cite sources will be considered to be an academic integrity violation that will be reported and could result in a grade of F for the course.

Calculation of course grade: Tests during term 20% each, final exam 25%, homework 10%, class participation 10%, term paper 15%.

A note on class participation: At the end of each class the instructor will give assigned reading from the text book for the next class. Students are expected to have read the material and be ready to discuss it by the next class. In particular each student should have ready in his or her mind at least 2 insightful questions or comments about the material. At least one of these should be of the sort that is likely to engender discussion. The instructor may start the class with a brief quiz which will simply be to ask each student to write down his or her 2 insightful questions or comments and hand them in. Results of these quizzes will count as part of the class participation portion of the grade.

Learning Outcomes: Learn some history of mathematics, see how mathematical truths are eternal, see that some things we do today are similar to what was done thousands of years ago, see how to do some mathematics the way it was done a long time ago, see that many different cultures have produced important mathematics.

Learning strategies: Students should pay careful attention in class and ask questions when they are confused. Make sure you do all the homework. Come to office hours and ask questions if you are having trouble with the homework or trouble fully understanding the lectures or any covered material in the text book.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 303 of 804 University Avenue, or call 315-443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs although I cannot arrange for disability-related accommodations.

**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 is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy 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>

**Religious observances policy.** SU religious observances policy recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to are religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice (Student Services -> Enrollment -> My Religious Observances) from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.