Course
This course is an introduction to the History of Mathematics. Of course, the subject is much too large for a single semester, so we will concentrate on the major developments and on the contributions of the greatest mathematicians. The emphasis in the course will be on the mathematics. You will follow the historical arguments and work with the tools and techniques of the period you’re studying. For simplicity and ease of understanding, we will often (but not always), use modern notation.

Prerequisites
A general mathematics background is a requirement for the early part of the semester, including the basics of algebra, trigonometry, and geometry. Quite a bit more sophistication is needed for the second half. To appreciate the developments of recent centuries, you must be familiar with abstract mathematics - thus MATH2216 (or MATH2211) is an absolute prerequisite.

Text

Exams
There will be two exams given in class:

- Monday, September 30;
- Monday, November 11.

The comprehensive final exam will be on Monday, December 16, at 12:30.

Homework
Problem sets will be given regularly, and each will have a specific due date. I’ll post solutions on the web, so I cannot accept late homework.
Credit

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exams</td>
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<td>Homework</td>
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Total 100

Office
My office is Maloney 574, and my regular office hours are MWF 10:30-11:30, T 3:30-4:30. If you have questions or need help and can’t make those times, just see me and we’ll arrange an appointment.

Comments

1. I encourage you to work together on the written homework; it can be very beneficial to get other people’s insights and to contribute your own. But if you do, you should solve the problems together, not just listen to someone else’s solutions, and you must write your solutions by yourself. I will not tolerate identical papers. In short, your submissions should reflect your own understanding, and be your own work.

2. I expect you to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Principles and procedures are outlined by the University; visit and read: [bc.edu/integrity](bc.edu/integrity). In particular, I will report any violations to your Dean; sanctions will be, at minimum, failure in the course.

3. Makeup exams will not be given unless I am notified in advance by your Dean that for extremely serious reasons you are unable to attend. An exam missed without this notification will be a failure.

4. Class will begin promptly. To avoid disruption, be on time, turn your cell phone off, and have enough foresight that you do not have to leave. In particular, you may not leave the room during an exam. (Note: if medical issues require an exception, I will of course make one; see me ahead of time.)

5. I’ll post all materials, including solutions to homework, worksheets, and exams, on the course Canvas site, which is accessible directly or through Agora.