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:

- *Tuesday, February 20*
- *Tuesday, April 10*

The comprehensive final exam will be held on *Wednesday, May 9*, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exams</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Canvas
I’ll post all materials on the course *Canvas* site, which you can access directly or through Agora.

Office
My office is Maloney 564, and my regular office hours are *MWTh 12:30-2*. If you have questions or need help and can’t make these times, just see me and we’ll arrange an appointment. Should I have to cancel because of another commitment (such as a Mathematics Department meeting), I’ll post an announcement of *Canvas* and you’ll get an email.

Comments

1. Discussion of the problem sets with others is OK, but what you submit is to be your own work. Anything less is dishonest and a violation of the ethical principles of Boston College, and will receive no credit. I will report any such submission to your Dean.

2. I expect you to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Principles and procedures are outlined by the University; visit and read: [http://www.bc.edu/integrity](http://www.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.*)