UCONN
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

MATH 2720
History of Mathematics

Syllabus -- Fall 2026

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: History of Mathematics
Credits: 3
Format: In person, TuTh 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM in MONT 414
Prerequisites: In this class can enroll students who passed

- MATH 2110Q or MATH 2130Q and either MATH 2210Q or MATH 2410Q or,
- MATH 2144Q or MATH 2420Q

Professor/Instructor/Facilitator: Bianca Munteanu
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Email: bianca.munteanu@uconn.edu
Office Hours/Availability: **TuTh** 10:30 AM– 11:30 AM in MONT 132

Course Materials

This course is part of the campus' course material delivery program. If you do not opt out of the Husky Book Bundle, the required materials for this course have been integrated with Blackboard and can be found in the Course Materials link in your Blackboard course. Please sign into Blackboard to access your course and course materials.

Suggested Class Materials :
Item 1. Journey through Genius: The Great Theorems of Mathematics by William Dunham
Item 2. Math through Ages: A Gentle History for Teachers and Others(expanded second edition) by William P. Berlinghoff
Item 3. The History of Mathematics - An Introduction(7th ed) by David M. Burton
Item 4. A History of Mathematics (3rd ed) by Victor J Katz

Frequent Free Online Tools:
The MacTutor History of Mathematics Archives – browse to become familiar with the many biographies and mathematics topics available here

Additional course readings and media will be available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources.

Course Description

A history of growth of the various fields of mathematics. A survey of the history and development of mathematical thought from ancient to modern times.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the development of mathematics as a necessary and creative human activity.
2. Show that mathematical ideas evolve over a period, are labored upon and are subject to change
3. Develop an appreciation of the structure and rigor of mathematics as viewed from a historical perspective
4. Reveal the interrelationship of seemingly diverse areas of mathematics, while also helping students integrate knowledge from other mathematics courses (e.g. calculus, analysis, differential equations, probability and statistics, geometry, number theory, and topology).

Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction and course overview

Module 2: Babylon and Egyptian Mathematics

Module 3: Early Greeks: Thales, Pythagoras

Module 4: Euclid

Module 5 Archimedes

Module 6: Arabic Mathematics and Pi

Module 7: Renaissance Mathematics

Module 8: Great Thinkers: Abel, Galois

Module 9: Descartes, Fermat, Newton

Module 10: Calculus

Module 11: Euler

Module 12-13: Various Subjects

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading: This course does not have a final exam.

Course Components	Weight
Individual/Group work	20%
Personal Project	20%
Midterm	30%
Essay	30%

Individual/Group work
Each assignment will be posted on HuskyCT. The group work will be due at the end of the class or at the beginning of the next class. Students from the same group will submit the group assignment individually. The absent students will not receive full credit for the group work they missed, unless there is a serious reason for their absence. The individual assignments will have a specified due date.

Personal Project
Choose a mathematician or a notable result or a branch of mathematics(or sub branch) and have a presentation(in class) on the subject.

Midterm - October 15th, during class

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Essay - due on December 10th; details will be provided on HuskyCT.

Final Exam

There is no final exam administered for this class.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

Due Dates and Late Policy
All course due dates are identified in HuskyCT. Deadlines are based on Eastern Time unless otherwise specified. *The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.*

Late work policy
The essay will not be accepted later than 24 hours after the due date.

Feedback and Grades
I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades within seven days after the assignments were submitted. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Weekly Time Commitment
You should expect to dedicate 2 – 4 hours a week to this course. This expectation is based on the various course activities, assignments, and assessments and the University of Connecticut's policy regarding credit hours. (More information related to hours per week per credit can be accessed at the Online Student website).

Resources for Students Experiencing Distress

The University of Connecticut is committed to supporting students in their mental health, their psychological and social well-being, and their connection to their academic experience and overall wellness. The university believes that academic, personal, and professional development can flourish only when each member of our community is assured equitable access to mental health services. The university aims to make access to mental health attainable while fostering a community reflecting equity and diversity and understands that good mental health may lead to personal and professional growth, greater self-awareness, increased social engagement, enhanced academic success, and campus and community involvement.

Students who feel they may benefit from speaking with a mental health professional can find support and resources through the **Student Health and Wellness-Mental Health** (SHaW-MH) office. Through SHaW-MH, students can make an appointment with a mental health professional and engage in confidential conversations or seek recommendations or referrals for any mental health or psychological concern.

Mental health services are included as part of the university's student health insurance plan and also partially funded through university fees. If you do not have UConn's student health insurance plan, most major insurance plans are also accepted. Students can visit the **Student Health and Wellness-Mental Health located in Storrs on the main campus in the Arjona Building, 4th Floor,** or contact the office at **(860) 486-4705, or https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/** for services or questions**.**

Accommodations for Illness or Extended Absences

Please stay home if you are feeling ill and please go home if you are in class and start to feel ill. If illness prevents you from attending class, it is your responsibility to notify your instructor as soon as possible. You do not need to disclose the nature of your illness, however, you will need to work with your instructor to determine how you will complete coursework during your absence.

If life circumstances are affecting your ability to focus on courses and your UConn experience, students can email the Dean of Students at dos@uconn.edu to request support. Regional campus students should email the Student Services staff at their home campus to request support and faculty notification.

COVID-19 Specific Information: People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and can include:

- Fever,
- Cough,
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Additional information including what to do if you test positive or you are informed through contract tracing that you were in contact with someone who tested positive, and answers to other important questions can be found here: https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/updates-events/coronavirus/

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important standards, policies and resources, which include:

- The Student Code
    - Academic Integrity
    - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Credit Hours and Workload
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty; academic work depends upon respect for and acknowledgement of the research and ideas of others. Misrepresenting someone else's work as one's work is a serious offense in any academic setting and it will not be condoned. Academic misconduct includes, but it is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for academic evaluation, presenting, as one's own, the ideas or words of another for academic evaluation; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will receive credit or be evaluated; and presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors involved. A student who knowingly assists another student in committing an act of academic misconduct shall be equally accountable for the violation, and shall be subject to the sanctions and the other remedies described in The Student Code.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or http://csd.uconn.edu/.

Software/Technical Requirements (with Accessibility and Privacy Information)

The software/technical requirements for this course include:

- HuskyCT/Blackboard (HuskyCT/ Blackboard Accessibility Statement, HuskyCT/ Blackboard Privacy Policy)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (Adobe Reader Accessibility Statement, Adobe Reader Privacy Policy)
- Google Apps (Google Apps Accessibility, Google for Education Privacy Policy)
- Microsoft Office (free to UConn students through uconn.onthehub.com) (Microsoft Accessibility Statement, Microsoft Privacy Statement)
- Dedicated access to high-speed internet with a minimum speed of 1.5 Mbps (4 Mbps or higher is recommended).
- WebCam

For information on managing your privacy at the University of Connecticut, visit the University's Privacy page.

NOTE: This course has NOT been designed for use with mobile devices.

Help

Technical and Academic Help provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course uses the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through the Help Center. You also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Student Technology Training

Student technology training is now available in a new HuskyCT short course created by students for students. It will prepare you to use the IT systems and services that you will use throughout your time at UConn, whether learning online or on-campus. It is available at https://lms.uconn.edu/ultra/courses/_80016_1/cl/outline .

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information..

Evaluation of Course Experience

Students will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on their course experience and instruction using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).

The University of Connecticut is dedicated to supporting and enhancing teaching effectiveness and student learning using a variety of methods. The Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) is just one tool used to help faculty enhance their teaching. The SET is used for both formative (self-improvement) and summative (evaluation) purposes.

Additional informal formative surveys and other feedback instruments may be administered within the course.