

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College
MATH 5307 / Mathematics History

Location: Web

Lecturer: Patricia Nicosia, Ph.D.

Term: Fall 2016

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Description: MTH 5307 provides a survey of the history and development of mathematical thought from ancient to modern times including biographical perspectives.

Objectives: The student will understand the historical development of mathematics and mathematical ideas, the interrelationship between society and mathematics, the structure of mathematics, and the evolving nature of mathematics and mathematical knowledge.

Texts: 1. Math through the Ages (Berlinghoff & Gouvea) ISBN 978-0-88385-736-6
2. Agnesi to Zeno-Over 100 Vignettes from the History of Math (Sanderson & Smith) ISBN 1-55953-107-X

Grading: Your grade will be based on a book report (24%), an exam (25%), assignments (13 X 2%), and mathematician summaries (25 X 1%). Grades will be assigned as follows: A: 90%-100%, B: 80%-89%, C: 70%-79%, D: 60%-69%, F: below 60%.

Course Schedule:

August 23: Syllabus

August 30: Reports on Pythagoras of Samos & Euclid of Alexandria, Homework #1 (Vignette 2, problem 4)

September 6: Reports on Archimedes & Apollonius of Perga, Homework #2 (Vignette 4, problem 3)

September 13: Reports on Pappas of Alexandria & Proclus, Homework #3 (Vignette 10, problems 1 & 2)

September 20: Reports on Leonardo of Piza & Nicolas Copernicus, Homework #4 (Vignette 17, problem 4)

September 27: Reports on Galileo Galilei & Pierre de Fermat, Homework #5 (Vignette 19, problem 2)

October 4: Reports on Isaac Newton & Edmond Halley, Homework #6 (Vignette 31, problem 2)

October 11: Reports on Leonhard Euler & Maria Agnesi, Homework #7 (Vignette 46, problem 3)

October 18: Reports on Carl Friedrich Gauss & Amalie Emmy Noether, Homework #8 (Vignette 56, problem 1)

October 25: Reports on Srinivasa Ramanujan & Sophie Germain, Homework #9
(Vignette 58, problem 5)

November 1: Reports on Albert Einstein & Benjamin Banneker, Homework #10
(Vignette 61, problem 1)

November 8: Reports on Diophantus & Jaime Escalante, Homework #11
(Vignette 68, problem 1)

November 15: Reports on George Polya & Andrew Wiles, Homework #12
(Vignette 70, problem 2)

November 22: Report on Mary Fairfax Somerville, Homework # 13
(Vignette 85, problem 3)

November 29: Exam at RGC Testing/Computer Lab from 11 – 12:15 pm

December 6: Book Report Due on Math through the Ages

Additional Information:

- 1. All assignments will be submitted on Blackboard. You will not receive credit for assignments submitted after the due date.**
2. Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact the Student Support Specialist on their campus.
3. Office Location: Del Rio , Room 219
4. Office Hours: by appointment
5. **Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. Exams will be taken at the RGC site in which you are officially registered. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.**
6. **Reports on Mathematicians:** The reports will be 1-2 typed pages summarizing the major accomplishments of each person and must include a title page and bibliography.
7. **Book Report:** Summarize the book, Math through the Ages, in 6-8 typed pages. You should select at least 5 topics of interest to you from the book for review. Use APA format for the report.