MATH HISTORY ASSIGNMENTS

Notes: Due dates are for papers in course, where the lengths are considered to be “flexible” maximums. Also, the reason for two copies is that each draft will be read and commented on by a peer and myself.

Problem-Solving Homework and other Miscellaneous Writing Tasks:
Problem solutions (reflecting course activities) and writing responses are due on assigned days [at the beginning of class (ATBOC)] [1 copy]

Mathematical Reflections:
1-page essays are due January 6 (ABOC) [1 copy] No rewrite

Two Interpretive Papers on a Mathematical Topic:
Essay A—V1: Tuesday, January 18 (ATBOC) [2 V1 copies]
   FV: Tuesday, January 23 (ATBOC) [My V1 copy with my comments & 2 FV copies]

Essay B—V1: Tuesday, February 8 (ATBOC) [2 V1 copies]
   FV: Tuesday, February 15 (ATBOC) [My V1 copy with my comments & 2 FV copies]

Term Paper:
Topic & Rationale: Thursday, February 10 (ATBOC) [1 copy]
Outline & Reference List: Tuesday, February 22 (ATBOC) [1 Outline/References copy]
V1: Thursday, March 3 [Outline/Ref copy & 2 V1 copies]
FV: Tuesday, March 15 (by 1 pm) [My V1 copy with my comments & 2 FV copies]

NO PLAGIARISM! Read “Academic Honesty Policy” in College Catalog

PLAN AHEAD AND USE THE CYCLE!
   Exploratory Reading….Outline/Draft Ideas…..Write….Edit….Rewrite…Cut/Edit…..Write paper

USE YOUR TIME WISELY! This course differs considerably from other mathematics courses and it is “easy” to procrastinate. And yes, I do expect you to keep up on the reading.....
I am sure that no subject loses more than mathematics
by any attempt to disassociate it from its history.  [J.W.L. Glaisher]

Initial Note:
The course assignments (problems, essays, term paper) are good opportunities to work on
your writing ability within the context of mathematics. I am here to help, but do not claim to be
an expert. Please make use of the writing center. Write with the intent of showing your audience
that mathematics is interesting, not tedious or boring.

General Rules for All Papers: Typed, double-spaced, reasonable margins, font size 11 or greater

Interpretative Papers on Mathematics Topics:
Maximum Lengths: Around 2-4 pages (embed figures)...but if you need more, take them....
Purpose: To have you search out and decipher important information about a mathematician
or aspects of a mathematical idea that a literate person should know about.
Procedure: You will draw 1+ topics. Your task is to use any resources at your disposal (texts,
Internet) to become a quick "expert" on your person or topics, focusing on the
mathematical and historical aspects. Then, write a brief paper that conveys: What is
it? When? Who was involved? Where? Why should we know about the topic?
Audience: A layperson who has had geometry and algebra.
Suggestion: Make it interesting...be creative! Use your vocabulary and your good examples.
Be sure to provide evidence that you understand the mathematics involved. Also, list or
credit the references used....hopefully more than internet links!
Grading scale: (20 pts maximum for each)
V1: 2 points (based on completeness and timely submission)
Follows Procedure: 4 points (e.g. who/what/ etc.)
Writing components: 4 points
Use/presentation of mathematics: 4 points
Historical context: 3 points
Style/Creativity/etc.: 3 points
V2 Lateness: -1 pt per school day after due date/time

Term Paper:
Maximum length: Something reasonable....About 10-15 pages [embed figures]. You will be
developing a thesis with evidence, so key is to write enough...but not overdo it.
Purpose: To delve deeply into a mathematical area you enjoy or want to know more about.
Audience: The population of students who meet the prerequisites for this course.
Suggestion: Make it interesting...and reveal your own interest in it as well....be creative!
Warning: Be sure to show that you understand the mathematics you include in the
paper....through your use of language, examples, and thesis.
Grading scale: (30 pts)
Topic/Rationale: 1 point
Outline: 3 points depending on quality (-1 pt if topic changes later/-1 pt if no references)
V1: 2 points (based on completeness and submission on time)
Writing components: 8 points
Use/presentation of mathematics: 8 points
Historical context: 4 points
Style/Creativity/etc.: 4 points
V2 Lateness: -1 pt per school day after due date/time