

MATH4475: History of Mathematics
Spring, 2023
Rob Gross
MWF 2PM, Gasson 302

OFFICE: Maloney 515, 617-552-3758

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1–2; Wednesday and Friday, 3–5; and by appointment.

ELECTRONIC MAIL: gross@bc.edu

CLASS HOME PAGE: <http://fmwww.bc.edu/gross/MATH4475>

ALTERNATIVE: <http://sites.bc.edu/rob-gross/MATH4475>

TEXT: *A History of Mathematics*, by Victor J. Katz

This course studies the development of mathematical thought, from ancient times to the twentieth century. Naturally, the subject is much too large for a single semester, so we will concentrate on the major themes and on the contributions of the greatest mathematicians. The emphasis in the course will be on the mathematics. Students will follow the historical arguments and work with the tools and techniques of the period being studied.

Academic Integrity

You may share ideas when working on homework assignments, but you should write up your solutions individually. Copying someone else's work is plagiarism. Any violations of the College's policy on academic integrity will be dealt with severely. For more information, refer to

<https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/academics/sites/university-catalog/policies-procedures.html>

and select "Academic Integrity Policies."

Homework

Homework typically will be assigned and collected weekly. If you wish to turn in any homework longer than one page, **you must use a stapler**. Paper clips are not acceptable. Folding over the corner of the page is not acceptable. I typically will distribute an answer key when homework is due, and cannot give credit for work submitted after the answers are available.

All homework submitted in this class must be typeset in some way. Microsoft Office, Open Office, or similar word processors are acceptable, but not the best way to type mathematics. I strongly suggest that you install some version of \LaTeX on your computer and learn how to use it.

Macintosh users can download \MacTeX at <http://www.tug.org/mactex>. Windows users can download \MikTeX at <http://miktex.org>. There is plentiful documentation included in either of those downloads, but it is buried deep in various folders. One helpful guide is *The Not So Short Introduction to $\text{\LaTeX} 2_{\epsilon}$* , available at <http://tobi.oetiker.ch/lshort/lshort.pdf>. The Wikipedia entry for \LaTeX has links to many other introductory articles, including an excellent Wiki-book at <http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX>. A graphical interface called LyX is available at <http://www.lyx.org>.

As you prepare your solutions, I suggest that you store a copy on Google Drive, and also mail a copy to yourself every time you made any changes. Flash drives have been known to fail, and hard drives, particularly on laptops, are also less reliable than you might think.

Examinations

There will be three examinations during the semester, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 21; Friday, March 22; and Monday, April 29. The final examination is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, at 12:30PM. Note that the final examination schedule is fixed by the Registrar, and cannot be altered.

Grades

The three examinations count for 16%, 18%, and 20% of your grade. The final examination counts for 30% of your grade. Homework will account for the remainder.

Learning Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan (617-552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu) at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or the Disability Services Office, (617-552-3470, disabsrv@bc.edu) regarding other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.