
Senior Colloquium: *History of Mathematics*

Math 400 Spring 2020
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Fowler 310 T 1:30pm - 2:55pm
<http://sites.oxy.edu/ron/math/400/20/>

Course Project [300 points TOTAL]

PROMPT AVAILABLE: Tuesday February 11th
PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE: Tuesday March 17th
PROJECT PAPER DRAFT DUE: Tuesday April 14th
ORAL PRESENTATION: Tuesday April 28th
FINAL PROJECT PAPER DUE: Tuesday May 5th 5pm PST

Objective: synthesize mathematical content and historical context in a history of mathematics paper that contains non-trivial mathematics and interesting historical detail.

PROJECT PROPOSAL [50 points]

- **Length.** No more than 2 pages long
- **Title.** Include a title for your proposed paper
- **Topic.** Describe the topic for your course project. Either discuss whom you will be writing about and why or describe the mathematical concept you will be investigating. (Regardless of which emphasis you go with, your paper should include both history and mathematics. If your focus is about a person then you should include information about which mathematical concept they are associated with that you will be talking about. If your focus is about a particular concept then you should also include information about historical figures who are associated with that mathematical idea.)
- **Annotated bibliography.** Include *at least three (3) references/citations* with a sentence on each explaining the reason for how you will be using this source.

FIRST DRAFT **[50 points]**

- **Length.** No *less* than **six (6) pages** (1500 words) long
- **Format.** Typed, double-spaced, 12point font with 1-inch margins.
- **Content.** The paper should contain:
 - Clearly articulated thesis or focus statement that is in **bold font** and summarize the primary argument(s) and/or focus of the paper.
 - A clear description of a mathematical concept (with symbols, equations and/or figures)
 - The name of a particular 300-level class which the mathematical concept should be connected to
 - Biographical information about a historical figure (birth and death dates, brief biography and highlights of mathematical contributions)
 - The reason for selection of the historical figure and the mathematical concept
 - Place the mathematical concept in historical context and compare it to its modern understanding and representation
- **References.** Include *at least* **five (5) references/citations**.

ORAL PRESENTATION **[100 points]**

- **Length.** No more than 10 minutes.
- **Slides.** Not Required.
- **Content.** Provide an oral presentation version of your Course Project paper.

FINAL DRAFT **[100 points]**

- **Length.** No *less* than **ten (10) pages** (1500 words) long
- **Format.** Typed, double-spaced, 12point font with 1-inch margins.
- **Content.** The paper should contain:
 - Clearly articulated thesis or focus statement that is in bold font and summarize the primary argument(s) of the paper.
 - A clear description of a mathematical concept (with symbols, equations and/or clearly labelled figures)
 - The name of a particular 300-level class which the mathematical concept should be connected to
 - Biographical information about a historical figure (birth and death dates, brief biography and highlights of mathematical contributions)
 - The reason for selection of the historical figure and the mathematical concept
 - Place the mathematical concept in historical context and compare it to its modern understanding and representation
- **Polish.** The final draft of the paper should
 - be carefully proofread to ensure clear communication of ideas and to correct obvious grammatical or formatting errors
 - respond to comments and suggestions provided in response to the first draft.
- **References.** Include *at least* five (5) references/citations.