

History of Mathematics
(MATH 4123)
Spring 2004

Professor: Paul Bailey

Office: WIL 228

Office Hours: MTWRF 10am to 11am; MTWR 1pm to 2pm

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Book: *An Introduction to the History of Mathematics*, 6th edition, by Howard Eves

Grading

Each student will select a different famous mathematician from a list to be provided, and will write a research paper discussing this person's contribution to mathematics, in the context of his/her personal life and cultural surroundings. This research will then be presented orally to the class.

We will have a midterm exam during the week of March 9, and a final exam during the week of May 10. Note that the week of March 16 is spring break.

Research Paper:	25%
Oral Presentation:	10%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	40%

Approximate Syllabus

There are fifteen weeks in the semester and fifteen chapters in the book, so we can make a preliminary goal of one chapter per week, and see how it goes. I am more interested in enjoying this course while we marvel at the mathematical accomplishments of humankind than I am in rushing through a lot of material. However, some fairly amazing discoveries were made in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, so we won't want to completely skip modern mathematics.