

Mathematics 3820H – Mathematics from medieval to modern times

TRENT UNIVERSITY, Fall 2016

Assignment #4

Pascal on Conics

Due on Friday, 11 November.

Please read F.M. Clarke's translation of Blaise Pascal's *Essay pour les Coniques*. A copy of this is linked to from the course web page; the direct URL is:

`euclid.trentu.ca/math/sb/3820H/Fall-2016/Essay_on_Conics.Pascal.pdf`

This translation appeared (pp. 326-330) in *A source book in mathematics*, by David Eugene Smith, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1929, which can be downloaded in various formats from the Internet Archive at:

`archive.org/details/sourcebookinmath00smit`

1. State the results claimed by Pascal in his *Essay*. [5]
2. Give a proof of the third lemma (*i.e.* Pascal's version of what is nowadays called Pascal's Theorem) in the case that the conic is a circle. [5]