Mathematics 3820H – Mathematics from medieval to modern times
Trent University, Fall 2020
Assignment #4
Pascal on Conics
Due on Friday, 13 November.

Please read F.M. Clarke's translation of Blaise Pascal's *Essay pour les Coniques*. There is a copy on Blackboard, and another on the course archive page. 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:

`http://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]*

Some Recommended Halloween Reading

The Ballad of the Black Fox Skin, by Robert W. Service

A Tale of the Thirteenth Floor, by Ogden Nash

A Night in the Lonesome October, by Roger Zelazny