

Mathematics-Science 380 – History of Mathematics
TRENT UNIVERSITY, 2004–2005

Instructor

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Fall: Mondays 11:00-11:50, Tuesdays 14:00-14:50, Wednesdays 12:00-12:50
Winter: Mondays 13:00-13:50, Tuesdays 15:00-15:50
... or by appointment, or just drop by!
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Prerequisites

MATH 110 and 235H, or MATH 110 and permission of the instructor. Second-year students wishing to take the course must have permission of the instructor.

Text

The Heritage of Thales, by W.S. Anglin & J. Lambeck
Springer Verlag, 1995, ISBN 0-387-94544-X

Meetings

Lectures: Mondays 14:00-15:50 in OCA 207.
Seminars: Tuesdays 16:00-16:50 in GCS 111.

Marking Scheme

There will be twelve fortnightly assignments, two term projects, and a take-home final examination. The assignments will be handed out and collected every other week in the Wednesday lectures, the projects will be due at the end of each term, and the final examination will be written during the examination period in April and will be due at its end. The final mark will be calculated as follows:

Best 10 of 12 assignments (10 @ 4% ea.)	40%
2 Projects (2 @ 15% ea.)	30%
Final Examination	30%

This scheme may be modified for students in *exceptional* circumstances. Any such modification will require the agreement of both the student and the instructor.

MATH 380 Web Pages

<http://euclid.trentu.ca/math/sb/380/>

Consult the MATH 380 web pages for (hopefully) up-to-date information about the course. Copies of the assignments and some of the handouts will be posted there too.

Syllabus

We will survey the historical development of some important parts of mathematics. In particular, we will focus on the evolution of proofs and abstraction and the development of algebra. In rough chronological order, we will consider mathematics in:

1. Prehistory (*i.e.* the – speculative! – origins)
2. Egypt and Mesopotamia
3. Classical Greece and Rome
4. China, India, and the Islamic world
5. Europe from the Middle Ages on
6. The world at present

Note that additional material may be covered on the assignments and projects.

Honour

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from failure in an assignment to suspension from the University. Definitions, penalties and procedures for dealing with plagiarism are set out in Trent University's *Academic Dishonesty Policy* which is printed in the Calendar and can be found at:

<http://www.trentu.ca/deansoffice/dishonestypolicy.html>

For clarity, the following guidelines will apply in MATH 380: You are permitted and encouraged to work together and ask anyone willing (especially the instructor!) for explanations, hints, and suggestions on the problem sets, and to consult whatever sources you wish, with the exception that **you may not consult anyone who has taken the course before or their work.** However, **all work submitted for credit must be written up entirely by you, giving due credit to all relevant sources of help and information.** The take-home final exam will have more restrictive conditions that will be spelled out on the exam.