

Syllabus MTH 6610 - History of Mathematics

Spring 2016

Time: TBA
Instructor: Pat Rossi
Office: McCartha 202B; (334)670-3588; prossi@troy.edu
Office Hours: M 11:00 - 11:50; 2:00 - 3:30; 5:00 - 6:00
T 1:00 - 3:00
W 11:00 - 11:50; 2:00 - 3:30
F 11:00 - 11:50
Or By Appointment

Text: The History of Mathematics, 7th Edition, by David M. Burton, McGraw-Hill.

Pre or Co-Requisites: Graduate Status

Calculation of Final Average

Midterm Exam	30%
Reading Assignments	35%
Final Exam	35%

My Website: Reading assignments, and other course materials will be made available on my website. To get to my website:

1. Go to <http://www.pat-rossi.com>
2. On the left hand side, click "Academic Links for Troy University Students"
3. Under "Course Links" click "MTH 6610"

Assignment of Final Grade

Final Average	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0 -59	F

NOTE: Final Grades Cannot be Given Out Over The Phone

Attendance and Homework Policy:

More than three (3) unexcused absences will result in a grade of FA (Failure due to excessive absences).

Tests and Final Exam

Our **Midterm Exam** will be on Monday, February 29 and will cover material specified by the instructor.

Our **Final Exam** will be on Monday, April 25 at 6 pm.

Incomplete Policy

A grade of “I” (incomplete) may be given in the case of illness or emergency situations occurring towards the end of the semester, which make it impossible for the student to complete all course work by the end of the semester in such a way that the student’s performance accurately reflects his or her mastery of the course. Such grades are given very sparingly, and only in a case of genuine hardship. Time limits for removing an incomplete can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin. To receive a grade of “Incomplete,” a grade of “Incomplete” must be requested by the student and approved by the instructor. (i.e. The student must initiate the process.) See the undergraduate catalog for complete information.

Academic Honesty

Academic misconduct shall be handled according to the guidelines listed in the *Oracle*.

Course Description: The course is designed to acquaint the secondary mathematics teacher with the historical development of mathematics with particular attention given to the techniques of the period studied. Mathematics of early civilizations (e.g. Egypt, Babylonia, Greece), mathematics during the Dark Ages, and mathematics during the Renaissance (e.g., Fibonacci, Cardan, Tartaglia)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that postsecondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs; physical access to all buildings, facilities and events; and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the link for Troy University’s Office of Human Resources at:

<http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

Other Matters: Behavior such as wearing headphones in class, sleeping in class, exiting class during a lecture, talking to classmates during the lecture, reading a newspaper during class time, reading a book other than the assigned text for the course during class time, or doing work not assigned in this class during class time will not be tolerated. (If you are sick, or need to use the restroom, raise your hand and ask to be excused.)

Letters of Recommendation: I will gladly write letters of recommendation for students who receive an “A” or higher in the course, who have reasonably good attendance, and who do not cause discipline problems; provided that the letters are for graduate/professional school and/or employment in a field related to your academic major. Letters of recommendation for employment must be for positions that will be filled in the near future. (e.g., don’t ask me to write a letter of recommendation for a teaching position, when your date of graduation is over a year away.) Such letters are *confidential*. Also, if you want me to write a letter of recommendation, you must ask me *personally*. (i.e., do not put a note in my mailbox asking me for a letter of recommendation.) Oh - one more thing - the better I know you, the more I will be able to say about you in my letters of recommendation. *Therefore, it is to your advantage to come and see me, and ask for help during office hours.* This is how I get to know my students.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Troy University no longer has a cell phone policy. This means that I will not prohibit students from having a cell phone, tablet, etc. on their desk, except while tests are being given. I do not like for students to have such devices in plain sight and engaged in their use during my lectures - it's discourteous and it's a distraction to the person who has the device and to others around him/her. Considering how much students pay for each credit hour of instruction, being engaged in using such devices during class time also wastes money that students pay for tuition. But, since there is no longer any University policy regarding the use of such devices in the instructional environment, there is not much that I can do to prohibit their use (except during tests). While taking tests, neither calculators nor cell phones, tablets, etc. will be allowed on your desk and/or in your work environment. Particularly, the use of a communication device to violate the Troy University *Standards of Conduct* will result in appropriate disciplinary action (See the *Oracle*.)

It would be a courtesy for students who are expecting an emergency call to inform me before the start of class. Students receiving calls that they believe to be emergency calls should answer quietly without disturbing the teaching environment. If the call is an emergency, they should move unobtrusively and quietly from the instructional area.

University Firearms Policy

Regardless and in spite of recent changes in Alabama law related to the matter, it remains the policy of Troy University that no person other than authorized law enforcement officers shall be permitted to bring any firearm onto any campus, teaching, or service support property, owned or leased by the University, no matter whether they hold a permit to do so, or not. It has been determined that it is the University's prerogative to establish its policy related to this matter and therefore the current University policy on firearms remains in effect.

Important Dates (Which Are Not Listed Elsewhere in the Syllabus)

Jan 11	Last Day to ADD a Course In Person/Web Express Without Financial Penalty
Jan 11	Last Day to Withdraw from the University Without owing Full Tuition (cannot be done on Trojan Web Express)
Jan 11	Last Day to Drop a Course In Person/Web Express Without Financial Penalty
Jan 18	Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) – no classes
Mar 7-13	Spring Break – no classes
Mar 14	Last Day to Drop a Course – No Drops after this date
Mar 14	Last Day to Withdraw – No Withdrawals after this date
Mar 14	Last Day to Complete Incomplete Work from the previous semester
April 8	Last Day to File Intent to Graduate for Summer 2016
April 26	Last Day of Classes – Classes End
April 27	Dead Day

This syllabus represents a tentative plan for the instruction in this course. The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus if, in his opinion, such action will enhance and/or optimize learning. Any changes in this syllabus will be announced in class and/or on the instructor's website. This syllabus is a best possible assessment of the course aspirations, assignments and requirements at the time it was developed for this semester.