

History of Mathematics MATH 3010
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Michel Smith

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Class Website: <http://www.auburn.edu/~smith01/math3010Sp23/>

Office Hours: Tentatively MWF 11:00 – 12:00 and by appointment (possibly via zoom).

A comment about appropriate response to COVID: The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. The Provost’s Office further tells us that, “Given the efficacy of vaccinations, we know they are the most important protection against COVID-19, and all members of our campus community are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated.”

The CDC (https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Alabama&data-type=CommunityLevels) has covid infections for Alabama listed as “High”; regarding Lee County (https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Alabama&data-type=CommunityLevels&list_select_county=1081&null=CommunityLevels) it has Lee county covid infections listed as “Medium,” and the CDC recommends that we:

Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Get tested if you have symptoms. Wear a mask if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19. Wear a mask on public transportation. You may choose to wear a mask at any time as an additional precaution to protect yourself and others. If you are at high risk for severe illness, consider wearing a mask indoors in public and taking additional precautions.

The latest subvariant XBB.1.5 of the omicron strain of covid-19 is sweeping the country quickly and, according to the CDC, people who’ve come down with an illness from the previous variants can catch this version of covid. It is moving quickly. Vaccinations still protect people from the severity of the disease. I plan to wear a mask in class, and I respect students’ desire to wear one also. Students who feel that they may have been exposed to illness should wear a mask. I recommend that all students maintain social distancing in the classroom, keeping 6 feet between you and your neighbor. I will discuss exceptions to this in class. If at any time during one of the class meetings, you feel an illness coming on, you must put on a mask; if you feel very ill you should leave the classroom. No penalty will be given to any student who needs to leave the classroom for this reason. Students who are feverish or unwell should not attend class but should be tested and follow the advice of their physicians regarding interacting with others and returning to campus. If a student is contagious, the student should contact me immediately, and we will discuss ways to make up classwork during their quarantine period (assuming that the student is well enough to do so).

Class Textbooks and other resources

Required Textbooks:

Logicomix: An epic search for truth Paperback – September 29, 2009 by Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos Papadimitriou. (We won't need this till around midsemester.)

A History of Mathematics book that has sets of problems (at the end of chapters) - it doesn't have to be a recent edition; a couple of years ago I found some on Amazon for 99 cents. The important thing is that it has problems to work on. Here are a couple that have good problem sets that are available in inexpensive used editions:

The History of Mathematics: An Introduction by David Burton

An Introduction to the History of Mathematics by Howard Eves

Wikipedia.

Google or your favorite internet search engine.

Grade Calculation

Homework/Essays & Projects	15%
Identifications, Presentations and Participation	15%
Tests	30%
Final Exam	40%

Grade calculation:

90 to 100 =A; 80 to <90 = B; 70 to < 80 =C; 60 to <70 = D; <60=F.

Essays and projects.

Essays and projects will be open notes and open textbooks; this includes my notes on the class website.

Homework/Participation/Presentation.

My daily classroom process is as follows: For fairness, I will create pseudo-randomized lists of students from which I will pick students to present identifications and solutions to assigned homework. I will discuss details in class including setting up working groups. I will use my student list to assign student presentations for the next class. Once assigned, the student is responsible for preparing the homework assignment for the next class meeting. Typically this will be to prepare proofs to theorems under consideration or to prepare solutions to assigned exercises. Then students will present their work and Other students should be prepared to critique solutions and to ask questions if the presentation is not understood. Read my document *Participation* at the class website which adds details to the process.

Attendance Requirement.

Attendance and class participation are a critical part of this course. Students are permitted one unexcused absence. More than one unexcused absence (an excused absence is any University excused absence) will result in percentage points taken off the final grade as follows:

1 missed class results in a total of zero points subtracted,

2 missed classes results in a total of 2 point subtracted,

3 missed classes results in a total of 5 points subtracted,

4 missed classes results in a total of 10 points subtracted,

More than 4 missed classes will result in a grade of “F” assigned for the class.

Accommodations for Disabilities: If you have accommodations, please request them online so that I can access them before we meet in my office. If you are seeking accommodations you should make an appointment with a member of the professional staff in the Office of Accessibility office, 1244 Haley Center (844-2096).