

History of Mathematics

Finally, one last paper to round out your writing seminar! This 5-7 page research paper is designed to let you explore the history of a one topic that impinges on our work this term. You may choose from this list:

A History of Calculus

The (Mathematical) Legacy of the Greeks

A History of Algebra and/or Topology

A History of Some Theorems in Number Theory: Fermat's Last Theorem, the Twin Prime Conjecture, the Goldbach Conjecture

Women in Mathematics Pre 1950

If you have another idea in mind, come see me and pitch it to me.

A useful resource for writing a research paper can be found at

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/research_papers/index.html

This paper is due **Friday of Week 10**, but note that presentations on this paper will begin on **Monday of Week 10**.

Guidelines for Papers

Note that 5-7 pages means your paper should at least fill 80% of the 5th page. Recall that the margins should be no more than 1 inch on any side of any page, with a 1-line heading on the first page only. Type font should be no larger than 12 calibri. And in fact, NO times new roman or times newer roman fonts should be used. Papers should still be double spaced.

For this paper, be sure to use citations from at least 3 different sources. Your paper should have at least 4 relevant sources (not including a dictionary or any of our textbooks), at least three of which should be scholarly (ie, books from our library, or peer-reviewed sources). Wikipedia should NOT be used as a source. Note that not everything that appears in your bibliography must be cited directly in your paper; that's okay. Often a source provides important context for your understanding and subsequent ideas, but is not directly linked to the finished work. It should be still acknowledged.

Be sure the theme of your paper is clear, and that your paragraphs provide support for that theme/position. Be sure that your paragraphs have topic sentences, and that your paragraphs flow together. Be sure to write in complete sentences while avoiding run-on sentences.

Papers should be double-spaced, and have no more than a 1-inch margin on any side (including top/bottom). They should have one line of heading, with the title of the essay aligned on the

left, and your name aligned on the right. For citations and bibliographies throughout the term, MLA style should be used.

Be conscious to avoid plagiarism. Check out

<https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html>

to find some helpful information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid plagiarizing.