

**Guidelines for Paper 3: Choose Your Own Adventure**

**Proposal due: Last class meeting of (Nov.2-6) week**

**Draft and Draft Cover Letter due: Last class meeting of (Nov.9-13) week**

**Mandatory In class Peer Review: Wed, Nov 18 AND Thurs. Nov.19**

**(Thanksgiving Break: Nov23-27)**

**Power Point Presentations of Papers: Nov 30-Dec 4**

**Final Version and Final Version Cover Letter due in my office MSB126 from 9-12**

**TOPIC: Choose Your Own Adventure**

For this paper, you will choose a topic from the history of mathematics that interests you and discuss it clearly and thoroughly. Your topic may cover any historical period, but needs to include at least several paragraphs of discussion on mathematicians and mathematical results discovered after the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A list of ideas appears below:

**POSSIBLE TOPICS:**

**A mathematical biography of a prominent mathematician.**

For example:

- Pierre de Fermat
- Isaac Newton
- Gottfried Leibniz
- Leonhard Euler

For such a paper you may follow the detailed mathematical-biography guidelines given for Paper 2.

**The development of a significant area of mathematics.**

For example:

- The development of algebra
- The development of geometry
- The development of calculus
- The development of number theory

For such a paper you may use the outline suggested in the guidelines to Paper 1 adapted to your particular topic. This means that you need not include cultural implications, but you should include more mathematical and biographical details in the spirit of Paper 2 guidelines.

**Bibliographical sources.**

You should **use at least five bibliographical sources**, out of which only one may be an online source. Make sure you are using reliable sources. I suggest that three, out of your five sources, should be your two textbooks: *Journey through Genius* and *Math through the Ages*, and the online source *MacTutor History of Mathematics Archives*. Use UCONN's library to find other print sources (e-versions of books are acceptable).

The purpose of this assignment is to help you achieve a deep understanding of the development of significant contemporary areas of mathematics, or of the contributions to these areas by post 16<sup>th</sup> century, prominent mathematical figures.

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

- **The Proposal** (1-2 pages long) is due on **Last class meeting of (Nov.2-6) week**  
You should say which topic you plan to write about and include a short annotated bibliography: list **at least five sources**, describe the content of each one, and explain how it will help you write your paper (2-4 sentences per source).
- **The Draft** is due on **Last class meeting of (Nov.9-13) week**  
Your draft should be a “good faith” draft: a paper that you feel would fulfill the assignment. You must also submit a Draft Cover Letter (see cover letter templates on the next page). When you turn in your draft, you must submit it as follows:
  - **One** copy with the **Draft Cover Letter attached (for me).**
  - **Three** copies without the Draft Cover Letter attached (for your classmates to be used for “in class” **Mandatory In class Peer Review: Wed, Nov 18 AND Thurs. Nov.19**). Make sure you are preparing the copies ahead of time for your classmates.
- **Peer Review Workshop:** We will workshop these papers on **Mandatory In class Peer Review: Wed, Nov 18 AND Thurs. Nov.19**, during class. **You must be present** to comment on your classmates papers and receive their comments on your own. Please consult the Attached Peer Review Guidelines and Form on how to prepare a Peer Review Report on the drafts assigned to you.
- **Final Version and Final Version Cover Letter due in my office MSB126 from 9-12**  
Submit it in a folder with your Proposal, you Draft, your Draft Cover Letter, and your Final Version Cover Letter (Note that the Final Version Cover Letter for Paper 3 is different than the Final Version Cover Letters for Papers 1 and 2).
- The Proposal will be returned with comments on Friday, November 14. The Draft and Draft Cover Letter will be returned with peer review of your classmates comments on Nov 18 and 19. (Note that the week of November 23-27 is Thanksgiving Break). Only the final version of the paper will be graded, but in order to receive credit for your paper you must submit to me (in both formats: hard copy and .pdf) the Proposal, the Draft, the Draft Cover Letter, the Final Version Cover Letter.

Remember that **no late submissions are accepted unless there is a serious emergency for which you provide proof.** The final version of Paper 3 is considered to be the final exam of this course. According to UCONN policy rescheduling its submission needs approval from the Dean of Students.

## FORMAT

- Length: about 7 pages (1750-2100 words)
- Font: 12-point Times New Roman or similar
- Layout: double-spaced and 1” page margins
- References and citations: Use APA, MLA, or other consistent reference and citation style (see the links in The Papers section of the course’s webpage, and also the style of references in the Bibliography of your textbook B&G).

Remember that whenever you're quoting or paraphrasing other people's work, you must provide a citation!

**Please use the following text as a template for your Draft Cover Letter.**

Dear Professor Gageonea,

In this draft, I am trying to...

I think that the strongest parts of this draft are...

What I struggled with most was...

My top two priorities for revising are...

I know that I also need to work on...

At this point, I would like to ask you...

Sincerely,

**Please use the following text as a template for your Final Version Cover Letter.**

Dear Professor Gageonea,

In this paper, I am trying to...

In my first draft, I...

Given the feedback I received on that draft, I decided to...because...

I concentrated most of my efforts for this final version on...

I think that the strongest parts of this paper are... I'm especially proud of...

What I struggled with most was...

As you read this paper, please keep...in mind.

*Write a few sentences explaining your thoughts on writing. Has your writing changed as a result of this class, and if so, how?*

Sincerely,

## **Peer Review Guidelines and Form**

Here are some general guidelines for peer review:

- Read the paper through twice. First, get the general sense of the paper, and then read it to answer (in writing) the questions on the peer review form (see template for Peer Review attached).
- Explain all your responses: don't just write "yes" or "no."
- Make your comments useful and constructive. Always point to a particular part of the paper (that is, don't just say "your transitions are unclear"; say "sometimes transitions are unclear; consider the second paragraph on page 2"), and don't just point out problems without suggesting ways to fix them!
- Respect the author's viewpoint: don't suggest that the author rewrite the paper because you disapprove of his or her approach or topic.
- The Peer Review Workshop will be held during class on Wed, December 3: For each paper assigned to you bring the filled Peer Review form and the original draft (you may make additional comments on the draft, if you wish) to discuss with, and hand it to, your authors.

## **Peer Review Form**

**Author's name:**

**Reviewer's name:**

### **Content**

Did the author provide an appropriate amount of background?

Did the author present the topic in an appropriate level of detail?

### **Organization**

Does the paper's organization make the author's argument clear and easy to follow?

Can the introduction and conclusion be strengthened? If so, how?

### **Mechanics**

Did the author cite all of his or her sources adequately?

Is the author's writing style clear and appropriate for this paper?

Did the author achieve a nice flow? Are the transitions between topics smooth?

### **General**

What are the strongest parts of this draft?

What are the two most important things for the author to focus on in revisions?

*(Ripped shamelessly from the [Manoa Writing Program's website](#).)*