

Guidelines for Paper 3: Choose Your Own Adventure

Proposal due: Wed, April 1

Draft and Draft Cover Letter due: Wed, April 15

Peer Review Forms due: Wed, April 22

Final Version and Final Version Cover Letter due: **Monday**, May 8, 10:00-13:00, MSB 127

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 16th century. A list of ideas appears below, but you are also welcome to choose a topic that is not on the list. (If you do so, I will ask you for a more detailed proposal, and I strongly suggest that you consult me before writing your proposal.)

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. 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 16th century, prominent mathematical figures.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

- **The Proposal** (1-2 pages long) is **due on April 1**. You should send me a short email and 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). If you selected a topic that is not on the list, you must also include a paragraph describing your topic.
- **The Draft** is due on **April 15**. 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).
- **Peer Review Workshop**: We will workshop these papers on April 22, during class. You must be present to comment on your classmate’s papers and receive their comments on your own. I will assign groups: once the groups are formed, I will let you know. You are responsible to give access to your paper to all members of the groups (possibilities include: hard copies, .PDF, or Word files sent as email attachments or sharing via Google docs or Google drive.) Give and receive feedback on papers during class. Fill peer review form for each paper is assigned to you. Be ready to discuss your comments with your authors.
- **Present your paper (Week April 27-May1)** As part of revision process you need to present and discuss with your classmates a short (10 min) of your paper.
- **The final version** of the paper is due during Final Exam time: **Monday, May 8, 10:00 – 13:00, in my office MSB 127**. Submit it in a folder with your Proposal, your 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).
- Your Proposal needs to be approved in order to start writing your paper. You will get a notification via email on Friday, April 3. (Please check your emails.) Peer review forms of your classmates with comments and suggestions will be returned during class on **Wed., April 15**, along with the. Only the final version of the paper will be graded, but in order to receive credit for your paper you must submit to me 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,

