

## **Guidelines for Paper 1: The Story of Zero**

**Draft and Draft Cover Letter due:** Feb. 4

**Final Version and Final Version Cover Letter due:** Feb 18

### **Topic: The Story of Zero**

Sketch the story of the number zero from its ancient origins to the present days.

Limit your reading to:

- B&G: Sketch #3: The Story of Zero
- MTM: A History of Zero  
(<http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/HistTopics/Zero.html>)
- The source(s) used to answer Exercise 2 of your first group-work(done in class):Ancient Numerals

Your paper should include:

- Relevant historical dates and names of the mathematicians associated with the number zero.
- The historical development of the notion of zero and its uses in the advancement of mathematics.
- Examples of cultural or artistic implications of this number.

The purpose of this assignment is to help you achieve an in-depth overview on how an important mathematical idea and its changing role through history contribute to the development of mathematics.

### **Submission instructions:**

- The Draft is due on Feb 4. 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)
- The final version of the paper is due on Feb 18. Submit it in a folder with your Draft, your Draft Cover Letter, and your Final Version Cover Letter.
- The Draft and Draft Cover Letter will be returned with comments. Only the final version of the paper will be graded, but in order to receive credit for your paper you must submit the Draft, the Draft Cover Letter, and the Final Version Cover Letter.

Remember that no late submissions are accepted unless there is a serious emergency for which you provide proof.

### **Format:**

- Length: about 3 pages (750-900 words)
- Font: 12-point Times New Roman or similar
- Layout: double-spaced and 1” page margins
- References and citations: Use APA reference and citation style (see the link 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.

Sincerely,