Guidelines for Paper 3: Choose Your Own Adventure

Proposal due: Tuesday, November 4
Draft and Draft Cover Letter due: Tuesday, November 18
Peer Review Forms due: Tuesday, December 2
Final Version and Final Version Cover Letter due: Tuesday, December 9, 1:00-3:00, MSB 202

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 **Tuesday, November 4**. 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). 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 **Tuesday, November 18**. 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 **Tuesday, December 2**, 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.

- **The final version** of the paper is due during Final Exam time: **Tuesday, December 9, 1:00 – 3:00**, in my office MSB 202. 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).

  - The Proposal will be returned with comments on **Tuesday, November 11**. The Draft and Draft Cover Letter will be returned with comments on **Tuesday, December 2**, along with the peer review forms of your classmates. (Note that the week of November 23-29 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 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 Glaz,

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 Glaz,

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,