

# SYLLABUS FOR MA 484, HISTORY OF MATHEMATICAL THOUGHT

## MA 484 Fall, 2002

Dates: 8/26/02 - 12/15/02

Time: 9:00 - 9:50 P.M., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Place: NSF 3202

Instructor: Hal Martin, NSF 3011. Office phone: 227-1591.

Office Hours: To be announced.

Text: None. However, there will be hand-outs on various subjects and various web sites that we will be using.

Material to be Covered: (With the numbers of weeks devoted to the topic indicated in parentheses; all of this is tentative.)

Geometry (2 weeks)

Algebra (3 weeks)

From Copernicus to Newton (2 weeks)

Set Theory (2 weeks)

Analysis (2 weeks)

From Boole to Godel (3 weeks).

Attendance: Required. Unexcused exams will not be made up.

Nature of the course: There will be a lot of history discussed in this course. But there will also be a lot of mathematics, some familiar to you but some that might be entirely new to you. So, this is a 50% history course and a 50% math course. (Why 50% math when the title of the course indicates that it is a history course? Because you can't understand the historical development of a mathematical idea unless you understand the mathematical idea first.) So, this course will not only provide us with the opportunity to learn a little bit of history, but also the opportunity to learn a little bit of new mathematics as well.

Exams and a paper: There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam and also a paper, (roughly 10 to 20 pages), on some mutually agreeable topic.

Disabilities: If you have a need for disability related accommodations or services, please inform your instructor or the Office of Student Support and Disability Services at 405 Cohodas (Phone 227-1550, TDD: 227-1543). Reasonable and effective accommodation and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state and university guidelines.