

History of Mathematics - Math 2250B, Course Outline

1. Course Information

Course Information

History of Mathematics-Mathematics 2250B, Winter 2025.

Schedule:

Location:

List of Prerequisites

Mathematics 1600A/B

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean's Designate (Department/Program Counsellors and Science Academic Advisors) to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Masoud Khalkhali	masoud@uwo.ca			TBA, In Person
TA: TBA				

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors. No online meeting or online office hours.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Schedule:

- This course will provide a historical overview of the emergence of Mathematics and its impacts. Topics include: The origins of counting, Mathematics in the Ancient World (numbers, geometry, axioms); The emergence of algebra, analytic geometry and calculus (15th 17th century); Explosive modern growth (18th - 21st century).
- Course Learning Outcomes:
- The students will get a clear view of different eras in the development of mathematics, key figures of each era, and key theories discovered in that period. You will learn about important books written in each era, and learn a few results from each book. You will also learn about the dichotomy between algebra and geometry and how various cultures of mathematics perceived it and enriched this dichotomy. In particular we shall carefully examine Euclid's elements and its impact on the development of axiomatic method in mathematics.

Classes begin: January 6, 2025

Spring Reading Week: February 17 – 21, 2025

Classes end: April 4, 2025

Exam period: April 7 – 30, 2025

4. Course Materials

- **Required textbook:** Course Textbook: Mathematics and Its History, John Stillwell. We shall follow selected material from the first 9 chapters of this book.
- The book by Merzbach and Boyer (A History of Mathematics) will also be used as a secondary source but is not required. The first text is more mathematical and gives more technical details, while the second gives a more global and conceptual perspective with less mathematical details.
- **The textbook costs \$ 74.**
- **Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.**

All course assignments will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Technical Requirements: None.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Assignments (5)	30%
Midterm Test	30%
Final Exam	40%

There will be 5 sets of Assignments. They will be announced by me through OWL in a biweekly basis. The midterm will be in class and in the last week of February. The first assignment is due 3 weeks after the start of the term. Later dates will be posted in due time. The final exam covers the entire course material. The date will be announced by registrar's office.

All exams will be closed book: notes or class material are not permitted. Calculators or other electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.) are not permitted.

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- Final Exam
- Midterm

When a student *mistakenly* submits their one allowed Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** for the assessments listed above or those in the **Coursework with Assessment Flexibility** section below, the request cannot be recalled and reapplied. This privilege is forfeited.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments

For documented missed midterms you can either write a make-up, before the midterms are returned, or reweight your final exam. For missed assignments you will get an extension by a reasonable time, before the assignments are returned. After these deadlines, your final exam will be reweighted by default.

When a student misses the Final Exam and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

6. Additional Statements

Religious Accommodation

When conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible but not later than two weeks prior to the writing or the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays:

<https://www.edi.uwo.ca>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

No electronic devices are permitted on tests.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic-related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.