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Course Policies

Prof. Shahed Sharif

Textbook. We will be using Victor Katz's *A History of Mathematics*, 3rd ed. We will be covering chapters 1–10, 13, 15, and 16, as time permits, at the rate of about one chapter every week.

Software. Homework and exams will be turned in via Gradescope. Please obtain a scanner or scanning app (such as Adobe Scan, available for free with your CSUSM credentials), and use it to convert your homework assignments to pdf format. Then upload these to Gradescope. Please make sure to identify which problem is on which pages.

Course description. Major currents in the evolution of mathematical thought from early civilization to modern times.

Course objectives. By the end of this course, you will be able to trace the history of modern mathematics from ideas in antiquity, including across cultures and societies. You will also learn methods used by mathematicians of yore.

Course requirements. The grading scheme is as follows:

20%	for homework
40%	for two exams
40%	for final exam

Homework is posted every Friday on my webpage and is due on Gradescope the following Friday. If you missed the announcement, check my webpage or email me.

Some of the problems are proofs and explanations. These must be written legibly and in complete sentences. *You will be graded on your writing!* Correct and clear grammar is essential to a correct proof. Of course, your reasoning must also be completely clear for full credit. Rewriting homework before handing it in is highly advisable. You may type your problem sets, but if you do, please use LaTeX. Homework fulfills this course's writing requirement.

After homework is handed in, I will be happy to go over complete solutions in office hours. Feel free to also e-mail me questions.

The **first exam** is tentatively scheduled for September 27. The **second exam** is tentatively scheduled for November 6. The **final exam** will be Monday, December 11, 1:45—3:45 PM. If it would help, the final exam score will replace your lowest midterm exam score.

Late assignment policy. Late homework is not accepted. There are no exceptions! Instead, the lowest two homeworks scores are dropped.

Make-up exams are not given. The replacement policy for exams will be used instead.

Office hours. My office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 1–2:30 PM. Drop by the math conference room at that time—you don't need an appointment, or even any questions! If you have a conflict, send me an email and we'll work out an alternate time. You can also email me any questions that you have. Make sure you include as much relevant detail as possible—pictures are fine.

Ethics. You are encouraged to work with others on graded assignments, but the final product should be your own work. In particular, you may not read your classmates' finished assignments until your own is completed! The same goes for other sources—online, back of the book, or other sources. Avoid looking at these sources, or if you do, take no notes on them. Failure to follow these guidelines is considered plagiarism, and all involved parties will *at a minimum* earn a zero on the relevant assignment and have their actions reported to the Dean of Student Affairs.

Using ChatGPT or similar AI tools is also considered cheating, and is also a bad idea: AI is very good at writing mathematics that looks convincing, but is completely wrong.

ADA policy. Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) in Administrative Hall 4300 (ph: (760) 750-4905; TTY: (760) 750-4909). Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with me during my office hours in order to ensure confidentiality.