Math 120 - An Introduction to Pure Mathematics

Course Syllabus

Instructor : Michael Rogers, 115 Seney Hall, x4-8419

Availability : Mondays, Wednesdays, and most Fridays before lunch and after three-thirty ; Thursdays and some Tuesdays after two o'clock.

Course Content : Selections from Euclid's Elements, Saccheri, Lobachevsky's "Imaginary Geometry", and Hilbert's Foundations of Geometry

Course Goals : To learn some geometry and about the development of mathematical thought through the study of some of the great geometrical works of mathematicians. To learn, through speaking, reading, and writing, the logical thinking inherent in mathematics.

Integrity : The Honor Code applies, as it does in every course, to work submitted for credit. Intellectual integrity involves pride in one's own work and respect for others! Show respect by acknowledging others' ideas, even in class.

Evaluations : Work will be weighted roughly as follows : Presentations and class discussions 25%, Tests (two) 20%, Final Exam. 20%, Commentaries 15%, Summaries and quizzes 10%, Original Proofs 10%. Notes :

(1) To be educated the student must submit his or her ideas to scrutiny and debate.

(2) Presentations : Students will present propositions to the class at the board (without the use of notes of the text).

(3) Tests are in-class, 40 mins, on dates to be announced.

(4) The Final Exam is cumulative.

(5) Summaries of proposition will be assigned from time to time as homework; some quizzes will be given when appropriate.

(6) Commentaries : A two-page essay on a topic of one's choosing related to the previous week or so of class is due each Thursday. (Double-spaced!)

(7) Students' original proofs of propositions from a list to be handed out is due the last day of class.