

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS  
FALL 2009  
MAT115 COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>COURSE:</b>	Mathematics: A Historical Perspective
<b>SECTION:</b>	MAT115 CRN 93638
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Maria Teresa Alzugaray Rodriguez
<b>PRE-REQUISITE:</b>	MAT007 or equivalent
<b>OFFICE:</b>	HSEC-A106
<b>PHONE NUMBERS:</b>	Office: (631) 851 – 6442 Math Secretary: (631) 851 - 6737
<b>E-MAIL:</b>	alzugam@sunysuffolk.edu
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Monday 10:00 – 11:15 am Tuesday 8:30 – 9:15 am; 2:00 – 3:15 pm Wednesday 12:30 – 1:30 pm Thursday 8:30 – 9:15 am
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/alzugam">http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/alzugam</a>

**COLLEGEWIDE COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course shows how mathematical methods and thinking have changed through centuries and are evolving still. Emphasis placed on people and events that are understandable to students with ordinary mathematics backgrounds. Covers material from ancient to present times and attempts to trace impact that mathematics has had on modern culture.

**OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the interplay between mathematics and other disciplines.
2. Demonstrate an understanding that mathematics is not a static field.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the people behind the mathematics.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of some of the Historical Mathematical Problems.

**PROCEDURES FOR ACCOMPLISHING THESE OBJECTIVES**

The students are expected to participate in class, do the assigned homework and reading and get help during the instructor's office hours, if they need it. There is also free tutoring available at the Academic Wing of the Multipurpose Building in Room MA129 (hours are posted on door; you must sign in each time you use the Skills Center).

**TEXTBOOK**

*The Saga of Mathematics* by Lewinter and Widulski, Prentice Hall.

The students are expected to bring the textbook to every class meeting.

### **ADDITIONAL READING**

1. <http://www.gap-system.org/~history/index.html>
2. *The man who loved only numbers* by Paul Hoffman
3. *Men of Mathematics* by E.T. Bell
4. *Fermat's last theorem* by Amir D. Aczel

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

There will be two tests (no make-ups) and a project. The project will consist of a paper (and its presentation) written by each student about a mathematician whose scientific contribution has been significant to the development of Mathematics. The test average will represent 50% of the final grade and the project score 50%. Letter grades are assigned according to college guidelines: 90-99.9 "A", 85-89.99 "B+", 80-84.99 "B", 75-79.99 "C+", 70-74.99 "C", 65-69.99 "D+", 60-64.99 "D", below 60 "F". A grade of 'W' will be given only if the student withdraws officially by returning a withdrawal slip with the teacher's signature to the Registrar's Office prior to the college wide deadline.

The approximate timeline for the tests and the presentation of the project is the following:

Test # 1	Oct 19, 2009
Test # 2	Dec 14, 2009
Deadline for handing in the project papers	Dec 9, 2009
Project presentations	Dec 16 and Dec 21, 2009

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is mandatory. In accordance with the school policy, all students are expected to attend every session for each course for which they are registered. Students are responsible for all that transpires in class whether or not they are in attendance. The College defines excessive absence or lateness as more than the equivalence of one week of class meetings during the semester. Excessive absence or lateness may lead to failure in a course or removal from the class roster.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

A student with special needs or disabilities should get in touch with the instructor during the first week of the semester in order for the appropriate accommodations to be arranged. For more information on this matter please contact the Counseling Center at (631) 851-6250.

Any rude or disruptive behavior may be cause for dismissal from a class for one class meeting. In those cases where the continued presence of a student poses a substantial threat or would be disruptive to the class, the instructor can request that the Dean of Student Services impose an interim suspension pending a disciplinary hearing. Cell phones and beepers should be turned off at all times during class time.