



East Texas A & M University

**Math 580.01W: History of Mathematics (23549)**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026, 3 semester credit hours**

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Pamela S. Webster  
**Office Location:** Frank Young Education North, Room 116  
**Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday, 1pm – 3pm;  
Tuesday, 1pm – 2pm; and by appointment and/or Zoom  
**Office Phone:** 903-886-5950  
**University Email Address:** [Pamela.Webster@etamu.edu](mailto:Pamela.Webster@etamu.edu)  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email  
**Communication Response Time:** Within 48 hours, unless over a weekend, holiday, or during school cancellation, such as bad weather days.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

**Text & Supplement:** No textbook required; sections will be provided inside D2L. Your reading of the text topics should be at least one day ahead of the related lectures. You WILL be required to find a book on a topic in Math History (I will give some suggestions) on which to do a book review.

**Supplies Needed:** A three-ring binder or folder for handouts. You may also want access to a ruler (metric and standard), stapler, and colored pencils. You may have a need during the semester to print something, so you'll need access to printing supplies/a printer.

**Calculators:** A calculator is recommended during this course. Some material may be worked best with a graphing calculator. **I highly recommend a TI-83 or TI-84** be used when appropriate throughout the course. If you chose to use a different calculator, please note that the instructor *will not be a good resource for you to be able to use your calculator*.

**Scanner:** A scanner or scan app MUST be used for uploading homework; **NOT just** the camera on your phone or tablet. Homework and other documents should be loaded as .pdf files, NOT as .jpg files. This allows for an easy upload and download and clean documents (no black outlines/edges, etc.) I have personal experience with the free app Cam Scanner, but there are several apps available. As long as it will load to MyLeo as a .pdf and there aren't a lot of dark edges or shadows, you should be okay.

### Course Description:

**MATH 580 – Topics in the History of Mathematics:** A chronological presentation of historical mathematics. The course presents historically important problems and procedures. Prerequisites: Math 332 or Math 500, or consent of Instructor. 3 sch.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate in writing and problem solving an awareness of how certain mathematical ideas developed and why they are important.
2. Recognize, analyze, describe, and represent data in various historical forms.
3. Demonstrate problem solving ability that includes but is not limited to knowledge of number systems, geometry, algebra, calculus, and number theory.
4. Make connections between topics from the course and applications to other sciences, the progress of civilization, and the teaching of mathematics.
5. Demonstrate historical computation techniques, and awareness of the importance of notation, and the relevance of mathematics to general education.
6. Demonstrate an ability to present historical mathematical thoughts/arguments in both written and verbal presentations, including but not limited to a book review and journal articles reviews.
7. Judiciously use appropriate technology to achieve these outcomes.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

Students must have a minimal amount of technical skills to be successful in this course. Skills needed include, but are not limited to: using the online learning system (D2L) in MyLeo; using Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; and the use of email.

### Instructional Methods:

**Instructional Methods:** Instruction will include lectures, demonstrations and models, and some group and individual work, based on the time available. This course will be taught as a lecture course with activities mixed throughout. In particular, students will be expected to work on projects and activities that deal with book reviews, journal article reviews, and other presentations of the material learned.

### Student Responsibilities/ Tips for Success in the Course:

**Attendance/Participation:** I will be taking roll every class. All students are expected to be present, and attendance will be reflected in your Daily Work grade. In addition, students must participate in class each day in order to receive full points for this category. If you miss a class, come see me for any missed assignments. **Please do not approach me as I am beginning a class period**, unless it is an emergency, so that we might start ON TIME. Please be in your seat and ready to work when class begins. **Class Participation:** In addition, students must participate in class each day in order to receive full points for this category.

**Amount of weekly study:** The “rule of thumb” for a math class is that for every hour of class time, you should spend approximately 3 hours of study time outside of the classroom. This study time may include a variety of activities, including but not limited to: re-organizing notes; working on

homework; participating in a study group, tutoring, workshops, or Supplemental Instruction session; attending review sessions; and studying for quizzes and exams.

## GRADING

### **Grading Policy:**

#### **Type of Assessment:**

Daily Work (Homework, Quizzes, etc.)  
Projects/Presentations/Reflections  
Midterm Exam  
Comprehensive Final Exam

#### **Portion of the Grade:**

15%  
15%  
35%  
35%

#### **Grading Scale: Grades will be assigned using the standard scale:**

A = 90-100+, B = 80-89.9, C = 70-79.9, D = 60-69.9, F = 59.9 or below

### **Types of Grades/Assessments:**

**Daily Grades:** The daily grade is composed of several categories of assessments, including attendance, participation, homework, and quizzes. **Attendance/Participation:** I will be taking roll every class. All students are expected to be present, and attendance will be reflected in your Daily Work grade. In addition, students must participate in class each day in order to receive full points for this category. **Homework:** Homework will be assigned most class periods. **It is extremely important for you to work all homework in order to be prepared for the exams.** We will also be working on certain supplemental assignments which will often have to be completed as homework. The total number of assignments that are completed and turned in (punctually) by the student will be reflected in the Daily Work grade. A grade will be taken on select problems from each homework assignment. **In general, late work will not be accepted.** A missed homework assignment or two, due to legitimate absence, will not adversely affect your grade as long as you have kept up with all other assignments. **Quizzes:** Both individual and group quizzes may be given occasionally. Since regular attendance is expected, **In general, NO make-up quizzes will be given.** This class covers enough material that there is no time to be missed that is a “good time”, and each quiz will be over material to be emphasized on exams. Quizzes will be averaged into your Daily Work grade.

In addition, please ensure that your name is written on all homework pages so that, when graded, you will receive proper credit for your work. Please, no spiral “chads” and, when possible, staple multiple pages in the same assignment together.

**Projects/ Presentations/Reflections:** Special projects will be assigned for students to work on outside of class. These projects will vary in their scope and should be completed neatly and punctually. In addition, you will be expected to keep a record of your reflections on the class and its material, as well as your reactions and future uses for the material. Each time you need to do a reflection, a prompt will be given to the class. You will need to keep up with your completed reflections in a separate location from notes, homework, etc. The reflections will be taken up at various, unannounced times throughout the semester. The reflections must be turned in when requested or they will not be graded. In general, late projects and reflections will not be accepted without a documented university excuse. Further information about the projects and reflections will be communicated to you during the semester. Regular attendance will assist students with being able

to participate in these activities and projects. In addition, there will be a presentation grade at the end of the semester that is based on research you have done throughout the semester.

**Midterm Exam:** There will only be one “during semester” exam: the Midterm Exam. This exam will be announced at least a week in advance. **CELL PHONES and other electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of the student's reach.** The only electronic device allowed during tests and quizzes is an approved stand-alone calculator, and only with the instructor’s consent. Note: Calculators that solve problems for students, including but not limited to the TI-NSpire, TI-89, Casio Prizm, Casio Touch, or higher, are **NOT** allowed to be used for exams.

Students should expect the bulk of the questions on exams to be problem solving. Partial credit may be given on exams IF all work is neatly shown so that I can easily determine the student’s mistakes. When pictures are drawn, students should be careful that figures are clearly marked and easily understood. Explanations should be explicit and understandable to the audience given. Items should NOT need interpretation if full credit is to be given. **Tentative date for the Midterm Exam (although not in stone): Week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>**. See the schedule below for details.

In general, **make-up exams will NOT be given unless confirmed ahead of time and accompanied by a documented, University excused absence.**

**Final:** Our final is a comprehensive exam. The window for taking the final exam will be Monday – Wednesday of final exam week, **May 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>**. **Note: the final will run for a two-hour period!!** Do not expect a makeup exam for the final, outside of times we discuss in advance. Students with special circumstances need to make me aware well ahead of time so that arrangements can be made appropriately.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### Instructor Specific Technology Requirements:

- **Calculator:** A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator (or equivalent) is REQUIRED for this course.
- **Internet access is REQUIRED.** Projects, etc., may be given online.
- **Word processing software is REQUIRED.** (Microsoft Word preferred/compatibility required)
- **Email access is REQUIRED.** Please utilize your East Texas A&M email address, or make me aware of your alternate email address.
- **A webcam OR a built-in camera on a laptop/tablet/phone is REQUIRED.** Should our course be forced online due to the current public health setting, or should a student contract a communicable illness, students will need access to a laptop or other device where they can view materials online as well as attend online video chats, etc.; therefore, students should be prepared and have this equipment available for the semester.
- **Scanner:** A scanner or scan app MUST be used for uploading homework; **NOT just** the camera on your phone or tablet. Homework and other documents must be loaded as .pdf files, **NOT** as .jpg files. This allows for an easy upload and download and clean documents (no black outlines/edges, etc.) The department has experience with the free app Cam Scanner (a video will be available in

the “content” page in D2L), but there are several apps available. Many are free, including the “basic” version of Cam Scanner, even if they ask for money... you should still be able to use the free version for this course. As long as it will load to MyLeo as a .pdf and there aren’t a lot of dark edges, extra items in the background, or shadows on the pages, you should be okay.

### **MyLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS):**

**D2L in MyLeo:** All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the. Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

### **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION in MyLeo/D2L:**

**MyLeo Support:** You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into your course in D2L. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor:

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

Students will be expected to interact with the instructor(s) in class or via electronic means in an appropriate manner. All instructor contact information is listed on this syllabus and should be used. Please use email to facilitate a quick response.

### ***Technical Support:***

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

# COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

## Course Specific Procedures/Policies:

**Getting Help Outside of Office Hours:** The Math Skills Center, located in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Library, at the rear, is open beginning Week 2, through Week 15. Their hours are Monday and Wednesday, 10am – 8pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10am – 6pm; and Friday, 10am – 2pm. For information on which tutors would be best to help, and when they are working, feel free to see me or the bulletin board outside the lab. Mach III/TRIO Services, located in the Halladay Student Services building, Room 300, is available to students who meet certain criteria, such as being a first-generation college student, etc. Contact TRIO at 903-886-5833. The Academic Success Center offers tutoring in the library, as well as Supplemental Instruction. Their hours can be found on the university web site. In addition, each student has available tutoring hours through the online tutoring service, tutor.com. Additional details can be found here:  
<https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/tutorInfo/default.aspx>

**Comments:** I will do my best to make a quality presentation each day and, in return, I expect that you will do your best to learn the material presented in class and in the text. This course will be taught as hands-on as possible, and student participation is necessary daily. It is important that you be actively engaged in any group activities. Questions are welcome in the classroom, and I will gladly schedule outside help sessions if necessary. I know that together, these efforts can contribute significantly to your education in this class.

### ***Syllabus Change Policy:***

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance and given in writing.

## University Specific Procedures:

### ***Student Illness:***

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

### ***Student Conduct:***

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook (See link below). All students are expected to exercise self-discipline and respect for the rights of others at all times. Behavioral disruptions that interfere with the business of the “classroom” or with an individual’s ability to learn may be referred to the Dean of Students. Courtesy to others is important. That means respecting the opinions of others, and in general, doing your part to make this a positive learning environment for all students. NOTE: This includes images and/or messages on face masks and/or facial coverings.

<https://inside.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdfx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Appropriate classroom behavior is required to attend this class. All cell phones and other such devices must be put on silent or turned off during class. Phones are a distraction for me and the other students in the class.

NOTE: THIS INCLUDES BLUETOOTH AND OTHER DEVICES THAT ARE PLACED IN THE EAR. All people will be treated with respect and I will not allow talking that will disrupt my lectures. If disruptions occur during class lectures, you will be asked to leave class and will earn a zero on any applicable grades for that class period.

Serial disrupters will be asked dealt with individually, including referral to the Dean of Students. If you are withdrawn from this course as a result of disruptions, you will be withdrawn from school, entirely.

***ETAMU Attendance Policy:***

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.  
<https://coursecatalog.etamu.edu/undergrad/academic-procedures/>

***Academic Integrity:***

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

**As stated in the Student Handbook, academic dishonesty in the class will not be tolerated.** If any materials or equipment are found to be available to the student at any time which is considered inappropriate by the instructor, the very fact that the materials are inappropriately available to the student is grounds for an accusation of academic dishonesty. The instructor reserves the right to fail the student for the assignment or the course, as well as report the student to the Academic Dean and/or the Dean of Students. They also have the ability to terminate the student's enrollment in the University. The instructor considers this an extremely serious matter. Please make sure you are not in a situation that could be viewed negatively. I find that a majority of students are honest in doing their school work. However, we must take measures to protect the academic integrity of the classroom. **I have a NO TOLERANCE policy for cheating and if you are caught cheating, you will probably fail that portion of the course, as well as possibly the entire course.** Cheating in this course is defined as (but not limited to) the following:

- Giving or receiving answers during an exam or quiz.
- Viewing the exam or quiz answers of nearby classmates.
- Having notes/practice work/etc. available during quizzes or tests.
- Possession or access to test items before the test is given.
- Deception in getting an excused absence to obtain the undeserved opportunity to make-up work.
- Use of cell phones or text messaging technology/other devices during exams or quizzes. **You may not use the calculator on your cell phones.**
- Improper citations in written works, or using another person's ideas and words as your own without giving proper credit.
- **Any** method, no matter how well rationalized or accepted, which gives an unfair advantage and/or improves a person's grade by any means other than study and skillful performances on exams and/or other assignments.

Students found guilty of an act of academic dishonesty in this course will be subject to receiving an "F" in this course, as well as the below-mentioned disciplinary actions, as deemed appropriate.

***Students with Disabilities -- ADA Statement:***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
East Texas A&M University  
Library, Room 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148**

Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu)  
Website: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

***East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health:***

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.etamu.edu/counsel](http://www.etamu.edu/counsel)

**AI Use Policy**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources. 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

***Non-Discrimination Notice:***

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

***Concealed Carry Statement:***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

# COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

## Topics Covered (tentative schedule):

Week	Dates	Topics
1	January 12 – 16	Syllabus, Introduction and Getting Started, Online/Scanning Activities, & Getting Started in Math History/Ancient Civilizations
2	January 19 – 23	<b>MLK DAY</b> (school closed Monday) & Ancient Civilizations continued
3	January 26 – 30	Ancient Greeks; assign Project #1 and Book Review Project – dates to be assigned during class
4	February 2 – 6	Ancient Greeks
5	February 9 – 13	Complete Ancient Greeks
6	February 16 – 20	Begin Romans and Arabs; assign Project #2
7	February 23 – 27	Complete Arabs & Begin The Awakening/Renaissance;
8	March 2 – 6	Assign Reflection #1, Review, & <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
	March 9 – 13	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES!!</b>
9	March 16 – 20	Continue the Renaissance
10	March 23 – 27	Complete the Renaissance of Mathematics
11	March 30 – April 3	Begin the “Dawn” of Modern Mathematics; assign Project #3
12	April 6 – 10	Complete the study of “Modern” European Mathematics & America
13	April 13 – 17	Implications of the “Modern” Mathematics & Mathematical Societies; Other
14	April 20 – 24	<b>Presentations</b> ; assign Reflection #2
15	April 27 – May 1	Review for Final Exam
16	May 4 – 8	<b>REQUIRED FINAL EXAM: Monday - Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, please allot a FULL two hours when scheduling your exam.</b>

*Remaining enrolled in this course constitutes acceptance of all policies contained in this syllabus.*

Any changes to this syllabus and/or schedule will be communicated directly to you in class by the instructor. You are responsible for being aware of any such changes.

**Good luck and work hard!!**