

MA 330, Spring 2009 Comments on Course Project

Please keep the following comments in mind as you work on your course projects.

- (1) I expect you to have at least 7 sources other than *Journey Through Genius* and *Math Through the Ages*; at least 5 of these sources must be non-website sources, e.g. articles in journals, books, etc. You may use the web to access these sources, e.g. www.JSTOR.org, but they should not be web-published content.
- (2) Your first version should be a complete version of your project.
- (3) I expect you to explain the mathematics you are discussing: this might be achieved by giving proofs if they are short and/or understandable. This might also be achieved by including good examples. When in doubt, use *Journey Through Genius* as a model for various methods of discussing mathematics.
- (4) Remember that this will be a written project of length (without references) 16-20 pages with 1 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced. The main requirement is that your project must involve a great idea of mathematics and provide a well-supported argument justifying this choice of topic. You should direct a significant portion of your project toward a general university audience and articulate clearly which sections are aimed toward experts. *Journey Through Genius* is a good model for this type of exposition.
- (5) You need to properly document all of your sources, using an established citation method: MLA, APA, the bibliography and/or BibTeX packages used by LaTeX, etc. You are not required to use a specific citation method, but you should choose one specific method and use it consistently through your paper.
- (6) Plagiarism is a violation of the University Senate Rules discussed in Chapter 9 of the syllabus, and will be dealt with according to University Policy (i.e. you will get an E in the class if you plagiarize someone else's work). Remember, when in doubt, cite your source!
- (7) Your final version will be a *deep revision* of the first version of your course project; in other words, this should be more than conducting minor revisions such as correcting typos or adding one example. You should be finding additional references and incorporating them into the work, restructuring the project to better tell your story, deleting and totally rewriting passages that are ineffective, etc.