# MA 330 ESSAY # 2

Choose ONE of the topics below for your essay. Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusion. Your essay should be typed, double spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, at least 750 words.

(1) In your opinion, did the ancient Mesopotamians know the Pythagorean theorem? What does it mean for a person or a culture to "know" a mathematical result? What sort of archaeological evidence would be sufficient to conclude that a society knew a certain piece of mathematics? Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusion.

(2) Textbooks often describe Thales and Euclid as belonging to a single, unified tradition of ancient Greek mathematics. As we have seen, however, these mathematicians lived in locations, times, and cultures that were significantly different from one another. Do you think that it is useful or important to view ancient Greek mathematicians as a single, unified tradition? Why or why not? Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusions.

(3) What effect did the discovery of non-Euclidean geometry have on the development of mathematics? What effect did it have on society more broadly? Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusions.