MA 330 ESSAY # 5

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) Much of the mathematics that we have discussed in this class has been the work of single individuals. In the 21st century, however, mathematics has become an intensely collaborative discipline. In what ways did communication and collaboration on mathematical projects change during the Late Modern period? You may want to discuss the epistolary correspondence of Gauss, the collaboration of Lovelace and Babbage, or the emerging global community of mathematics in the time of Hilbert. Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusions.

(2) You may have noticed that, throughout history, not all groups of people have been able to participate equally in the development of mathematics. Certain people whose names we know today had to struggle a great deal, while others were simply excluded altogether. What echoes of these excluded mathematicians do we still see today? How did their mistreatment affect their legacy, and the development of mathematics? You may wish to focus your essay on a specific mathematician, such as Germain, Lovelace, Landau, Hausdorff, Noether, or Turing. Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusions.