

History of Mathematics MA 311-501-9I Fall 2026

Class meets on Thursdays 17:00-19:30, in room UH 4002

Instructor: Dr. Nandor Simanyi

Office: UH 4014, ph. 934-2154

Office hours: Wednesdays 4:00-6:00 or by appointment

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Text: E. T. Bell: *Men of Mathematics*, Simon & Schuster, New York, London, Toronto, Sidney.

Text: Victor J. Katz: *A History of Mathematics. An Introduction* Third Edition. Addison-Wesley.

A PDF copies of these textbooks, for your class use, will be shared with you on the Canvas page of the class.

Grading policy:

Midterm Exam (around late October)	40 %
Fall break: November 23–29	
Final Test: Thursday, December 10, 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	60 %

The tests will have exclusively multiple choice questions.

Class Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. One can get a passing grade only if the number of their unexcused absences is not more than 20% of the number of classes.

Learning outcomes: By the end of the course, students will get a broad knowledge of the most important mathematical results from the ancient Egyptians and Greeks all the way to the 20th Century, and the people behind these grandious achievements of the human mind.

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All University faculty, instructors and teaching staff have the academic freedom to explore, discuss, and provide instruction on a wide range of topics in an academic setting. This class may present difficult, objectionable, or controversial topics for consideration, but will do so through an objective, scholarly lens designed to encourage critical thinking. Though students may be asked to share their personal views in the academic setting, no student will ever be required to assent or agree with any concept considered “divisive” under Alabama law, nor penalized for refusing to support or endorse such a concept. All students are strongly encouraged to think independently and analytically about all material presented in class and may express their views in a time, place, and manner, consistent with class organization and structure, and in accordance with the University’s commitment to free and open thought, inquiry, and expressions.

Collaboration, integrity, respect, and excellence are core values of our institution and affirm what it means to be a UAB community member. A key foundation of UAB is diversity. At UAB, everybody counts every day. UAB is committed to fostering a respectful, accessible and open campus environment. We value every member of our campus and the richly different perspectives, characteristics and life experiences that contribute to UAB’s unique environment. UAB values and cultivates access, engagement and opportunity in our research, learning, clinical, and work environments. Our College of Arts and Sciences aims to create an open and welcoming environment and to support the success of all UAB community members.

Welcome to MA 311-501 class and best of luck to you all.