

IDS 101 – College Colloquium: Mathematics of the Ancient World
Fall 2007
Writing Assignment 2

We have studied a lot of different mathematicians from ancient times. Choose one from the list below and argue that that mathematician had the most influence on modern mathematics (among those listed). Use at least three different sources. At least two must be print sources (not the internet!) different from our course texts. Since all of these mathematicians are from over 2000 years ago, you may need to dig a little to find much information.

You will need to argue your case persuasively as all of the mathematicians listed were influential, and you will need to support your position with evidence. Note that the mathematicians below contributed in many of the same areas, so you will also need to argue that your choice was more important in areas of overlap. That is, you can't just ignore the mathematicians you haven't chosen.

If you have selected or are considering a particular major, use the style prevalent in that major. Otherwise, use MLA style.

This is a paper that would be particularly easy to plagiarize, so take extra care that your ideas are truly your own and that they are expressed in your own words. Be sure to cite references as often as needed.

This paper will probably be 4 or more pages.

Here is the list:

1. Euclid
2. Pythagoras
3. Brahmagupta
4. Archimedes

Due Dates

First Review	Draft 1 Due	Second Review	Draft 2 Due	Third Review	Final Draft Due
10/24/07	10/31/07	11/7/07	11/12/07	11/16/07	11/21/07

Bring two copies of your draft on each reviewing day. Each draft must be typed, double-spaced, and stapled. When you turn in your drafts, include a rating of each reviewer on a scale of 0 to 2, with 2 representing "very useful" and 0 representing "not useful at all." High marks go to reviewers who offer useful comments on your writing, comments that either cause you to make a change or to think more about your writing, arguments, support, etc. Low marks go to comments that do not help you improve your paper in some way. Try to be objective as you evaluate them.

In addition to the hard copy you hand in to me, submit an electronic copy to turnitin.com.