

MA 3513

Final paper proposal guidelines

As per the syllabus, in lieu of taking the final exam, you may write an 8-10 page final paper. This option will be somewhat more work than studying for the final. It is intended for students who are interested in deepening their knowledge in the history of some specific topic of mathematics, and who are willing to work hard to do so.

1. If you are interested in writing a final paper, then you must turn in a proposal by Monday April 10th. This proposal should include the following aspects:
 - A working title.
 - A brief description of the mathematical idea that you intend to explore. You are welcome to explore ideas from applied mathematics.
 - A brief discussion of the historical periods during which you intend to examine the mathematical idea. Be sure to mention some of the people involved in the development.
 - If parts of your topic are discussed in the textbook, then you should include an explanation of how your treatment will go beyond that in the textbook.
 - A partial bibliography, including at least 2-3 sources. While you are welcome to use Wikipedia to develop ideas and get an initial overview of your topic, it should not be included in your bibliography.

I may accept, reject, or ask for further revision on your proposal.

2. Your proposal can be written using any software, but your paper should in most cases be written in LyX, LaTeX, or other word/text processing software suitable for mathematics. I specifically anti-recommend the Microsoft Word equation editor.

LyX may be found (together with links to further information) here:

<http://www.lyx.org/Download>