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MATH 300 History of Mathematics is a one-semester course in the history of mathematics offered as an elective to students who have completed the calculus sequence and the transition-to-proofs course MATH 225 Foundations of Higher Mathematics at Xavier. Its audience consists predominantly of math majors who are also pre-service secondary school teachers. The size of Xavier's enrollment dictates that the course is run once every other year.

I teach the course frequently, and have used Victor Katz' well-known textbook in its (euphemistically titled) Brief Edition (*A History of Mathematics, Brief Edition*, Pearson/Addison-Wesley, 2004) as the main resource. I employ a chronological approach, treating the history of mathematics from antiquity to 1700 (not ideal, but I assert that no one-semester treatment of the history of mathematics can be). Students find the exercises in Katz challenging, and I have put together a website of hints for the more thorny problems that I assign them.

One of the features of the course of which I am most proud is that six times over the course of the semester I devote a class period to a discussion with the students on their reading of an excerpt from a primary historical source (Plimpton 322, Euclid's *Elements*, Archimedes' *Quadrature of the Parabola*, al-Biruni's *On Shadows*, Cardano's *Ars Magna*, Descartes' *Geometry*, Leibniz' *Nova methodus...*). I find that this enlivens the course immensely, as they can drill deep into the mindset of one of the greatest minds of history.

I require that my students write two papers during the semester, the first a Mathematical Biography of an important figure of their choice, and the second a detailed reading of another primary historical source, along the lines of what I described in the previous paragraph.

Finally, in the last week of the semester, I take the students on a field trip to the Rare Book Library at the University of Cincinnati, which houses a wonderful collection of old and important mathematics books (e.g., a first edition of Descartes' *La Géométrie*).

You will find a website I have built for the course when I taught it in the Fall 2011 semester at <http://www.cs.xu.edu/math/math300/11f/>.