

Class projects

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Each student will prepare one 7-10 page project. This essay may be on a topic in history, pedagogy or mathematics related to the general concerns of this course. It might for example be

1. a review of a text's treatment of a specific topic
2. a historical account of the proof a certain result
3. a discussion of the philosophical setting of high school geometry
4. discussion of one formalization of geometry
5. an comparison of the treatment of a certain topic in several books (maybe over time -this could be publishable)
6. a joint review of several articles relevant to the course
7. You tell me.

A topic I would be particularly interested is to try to locate uses of the axiom of superposition in American high school texts.

Deadlines: Oct. 8 – Turn in short (1-3) list of potential topics with a sentence or two description. By October 22, we should have agreed on a topic.

October 29: Turn in 1 page description of project.

November 19: First Draft due; it will be returned with comment by Nov. 26.

December 3: Final paper

The grade for the paper will be based on the final accepted version.

Because of the revisions that will be made, students are required to type their papers using a word processing system on a computer. The system used should be able to handle mathematical symbols, or at least be able to manage subscripts and superscripts. For example, Word and WordPerfect have these capabilities. Students who do not have home computers with suitable word processing programs might want to use UIC computer facilities. Students are encouraged to use the mathematical typesetting program TeX.