

Write a paper of 3-5 pages (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, reasonable font such as 12 point Times New Roman) in length on a relevant topic of your choice determined in consultation with the instructor. The paper can take the form of an argumentative essay (adopting a clear thesis and providing evidence to support it in a reasoned manner) or a more purely expository piece intended to inform the reader on some particular topic related to the course.

Sources must be credited, including images, whenever possible. Citations may be informal, or AMS or Chicago style may be used at your discretion.

The intended audience should be intelligent college students with some mathematical background, rather than the instructor.

Papers will be graded on the basis of their substance, clarity, and editing, with each of those three rated on the following rubric. There will also be 10 points given for timely submission.

- 30 – Outstanding: This work is beyond what should be expected from an undergraduate. I want to show it off to my colleagues, and think it should go far in gaining you employment or admission to suitable graduate programs.
- 27 – Excellent: This work is the best that should be expected from an undergraduate. There are numerous strengths I would use to show other students what they should work towards.
- 24 – Good: There are no serious problems with the work, but may be areas where additional development would clearly improve it.
- 21 – Passable: This was not an area of particular strength, but the limitations do not impede the rest of the work.
- 18 – Nearly Passable: The weaknesses in this regard are isolated, and do not impede the rest of the work excessively.
- 15 – Flawed: There are errors, omissions, or significant limitations to this aspect of the project.
- 12 – Seriously Flawed: Well, at least you turned something in.

Papers should generally be submitted via Moodle in pdf format; exceptions should be discussed with the professor in advance.