

The University of the Incarnate Word

MATH 3340

History of Mathematics

Catalog description:

This course covers the historical development of mathematics; algebra, geometry, and the evolution of symbolism.

Context:

Prerequisite: Nine semester hours of mathematics or permission of instructor. This three credit hour course is designed for math majors, math teachers, and anyone who is interested in the historical development of some of the fundamental mathematical ideas. The course may not be repeated for credit.

Description of the course:

This course takes a rather comprehensive look at the mathematics before the sixth century when many of the fundamental mathematical ideas were developed. Then we discuss the mathematics around the world during the Medieval period (AD 500-1400), primarily following the themes of algebra and geometry. The course will finish with a discussion of the beginning of the elementary calculus during the 17th century.

Outcomes of the course:

Successful completion of the course will empower the students with a deeper understanding of many of the basic mathematical concepts from an historical and developmental point of view. They will understand mathematics as part of the human culture and civilization, experience mathematics as a dynamic and developing subject, and examine some of the research techniques used in important development of mathematics at various historical periods. Assessment may include both authentic and traditional formats, with group and individual activities, to be used in evaluation, validation, and decision-making.

Approval Date:

Spring, 1998