

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

I CALENDAR INFORMATION

Department: Mathematics

Course Number: 180-3 Title: The History
of Mathematics

Sub-title or Description:

A survey of the historical development of mathematics from its beginnings in Babylonia up to the present time. Special emphasis will be given to the interaction between mathematics and other aspects of the cultures being considered.

Credit Hours: 3

Vector Description: (3-1-0)

Pre-requisite(s): None.

II ENROLMENT AND SCHEDULING

Estimated Enrolment: 35 per offering

Semester Offered (e.g. Yearly, every Spring; twice yearly, Fall and Spring):

Yearly: Fall or Spring

When course will first be offered: Fall 1970

III JUSTIFICATION

A. What is the detailed description of the course including differentiation from lower level courses, from similar courses in the same department and from courses in other departments in the University?

There are no comparable courses either within the department or in other departments of the University.

B. What is the range of topics that may be dealt with in the course?

Mathematics in the Ancient World; Mathematics in the world of Islam; The Mathematics of the Renaissance; Newton and the Calculus; The age of Euler; Non-Euclidean Geometry and the rise of modern mathematics; Bourbaki and some speculations on the future.

C. How does this course fit the goals of the department?

For our majors this course should give a perspective on mathematics which will serve to unify topics they will later study in detail. For non-majors it should give an understanding of the development of mathematics as a part of the development of Western civilization.

D. How does this course affect degree requirements?

N/A

E. What are the calendar changes necessary to reflect the addition of this course?

New entry.

F. What course, if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved?

N/A.

G. What is the nature of student demand for this course?

Many students are interested in obtaining a view of mathematics other than the essentially technical one which is paramount in the lower level methods and service courses.

H. Other reasons for introducing the course.

Competence and desire of available faculty to teach the course.

IV

BUDGETARY AND SPACE FACTORS

A. Which faculty will be available to teach this course?

Dr. J. L. Berggren

B. What are the special space and/or equipment requirements for this course?

None.

C. Any other budgetary implications of mounting this course:

None.

APPROVAL - Faculty Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: MARCH 31, 1970

Faculty: APRIL 20, 1970

Senate:

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To Professor J. Barlow, Chairman Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Faculty of Science

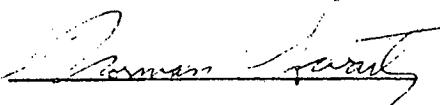
From N. Swartz, Acting Chairman Philosophy Department

Subject Math 180-3

Date March 6, 1970

The Department of Mathematics is submitting a proposal for a new course, History of Mathematics, 180-3.

The Department of Philosophy is currently examining several courses in the Mathematics Department as possible electives, or credit courses towards a Major or Honours degree in Philosophy. Math 180-3 is of especial interest to us. While I am not presently prepared to report that we will accept this course for credit in this Department, I can say that there is a very good chance that we will, and we would like to lend our support to the proposal from the Department of Mathematics.


N. Swartz

NS:js

c.c. Professor Mallory, Department of Mathematics
Professor John Tietz, Department of Philosophy

