

Math 130 independent project assignment

In this project, you will

i) Prepare an approximately 3-5 page (depending on amount of math vs. text) expository written text, on a topic of your choice. Think of this as writing a section in a textbook. I expect there to be mathematical content, but you have the freedom to choose whether it will be more discussion, history, or survey, in the style of definition–theorem–proof, or somewhere in between.

and

ii) Give an 8-10 minute presentation to the class, summarizing some aspect your work.

On or before October 27, you must submit a short (maximum 1/2-page, typed) proposal outlining your project. What will you read? What will your written text cover? Are you aiming to prove a theorem? I also encourage you to discuss your idea informally with me before this deadline. I will give you some topic suggestions, but also encourage you to come up with your own!

On November 19, you must have a written draft of your paper finished, as well as your presentation prepared. You will spend the class period constructively critiquing each others' presentations in small groups. The final written project is due on the last day of class, December 3.

Summary of schedule:

October 27: Project proposal due.

Thursday, Nov. 19: Practice presentations + written draft due in class.

Nov 24, Dec 1, Dec 3: In-class presentations. (We will have a sign-up sheet for dates available 2 weeks before).

Grading scheme:

As indicated on the class syllabus, this project is worth 15 % of your final grade. The written component is 10%, and the presentation 5%. Failure to submit the proposal, draft, and/or written project on the due date will cost you -1 (out of the 15) per day. (I hate to do this, but I fear I might need to motivate some of you to meet deadlines!)