Assignment 6
Math 105 History of Mathematics
Prof. D. Joyce, Spring 2017

Due Due Wednesday, Mar 1.

Part I. Select a topic for a class presentation and a paper. Later, if you find that you want to change topics, you may do so.

Your topic will be a particular mathematical work, part of a work, or several related works. It should be a topic in mathematics or an associated mathematical field. In any case, you will need at least one primary source, that is, a mathematical work either in the original language or translated into English or any other language you can read.

Try to keep your topic focused. It's much harder to write a good paper on a broad topic than a narrow topic. For example, don't choose infinite series; that's too broad. You could choose infinite series in the 14th century, or just the contributions of the Merton scholars at Oxford to the development of infinite series; those are sufficiently narrow topics you could write a good paper on.

a. Write down a tentative title for your topic and one or two sentences to explain what you'd like to study.

b. Find a primary source for your topic, and at least two secondary sources. You can use the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* in the reference section of Goddard Library, our text, and web references to find a primary source and at least two secondary sources (besides our text book and the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*). These can be books or articles in journals. Be wary of articles on the web, since they vary greatly in quality. Many are excellent, though. I will be happy to help you find some sources.

II. Exercises from the text. Page 191, exercise 8, and page 227, exercise 18.

Math 105 Home Page at `http://math.clarku.edu/~djoyce/ma105/`