

History 329U  
Perspectives on Science and Mathematics  
Prof. A.J. Lustig  
Short paper guidelines and schedule  
NEXT ITERATION

You should have a topic in mind for your short paper (approximately 1700 words, plus or minus 10%) at the time of the library skills workshop on [DATE IN THE SECOND OR THIRD WEEK OF CLASS]. The paper will be due on [DATE TEN DAYS OR SO LATER]. You should have a draft by [SECTION BEFORE FINAL DUE DATE]; you will be reading each others' papers in pairs in discussion section, giving feedback as appropriate on how well they meet the grading criteria.

The assignment has several purposes:

- First, it will introduce you to the resources available for research in the history of science and mathematics, in the library and online.
- Second, it will help you practice general skills in information acquisition and analysis: How do you find information? How do you distinguish among sources? Which are reliable, and for what purposes? How can you tell? What is the difference between a primary, a secondary, and a tertiary source? For what is each of these useful?
- Third, it will give you a somewhat deeper knowledge of a particular topic in the history of science that may serve as a source for your 5E lesson plan.

Possible paper topics might include:

- the development of an idea or theory;
- the circumstances of a discovery or other event in the history of science or mathematics;
- the social, cultural, or institutional context of a scientific or mathematical theory, event, or discipline.

The bibliography developed for this paper *must* include:

- Up-to-date secondary (scholarly) sources in the history of science or mathematics (reputable books and/or refereed journal articles; these may be accessed online if available).

The bibliography *may* include:

- Primary (original) sources (these may be accessed online if available);
- Reliable online sources.

You *may* utilize in early stages of research, but *may not* solely rely on:

- Tertiary sources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference works;
- Internet resources of unknown or unsubstantiated provenance.

(continued)

The bibliography *must also include* a source analysis, explaining where and how you found your sources, why you find them useful, and in what ways you consider them reliable. You may use any widely recognized system of scholarly citation (e.g. MLA, APA, Chicago); you must state at the top of your bibliography which system you are using.

Grading will be based on the thoroughness and quality of your research, on the coherence of the paper's structure, and on its style and mechanics (spelling, grammar, and syntax).