

BO1.1. History of Mathematics

Sheet 0 — MT25

Preliminaries

Standard texts for the course:

Jacqueline Stedall, *Mathematics emerging: a sourcebook 1540–1900*, Oxford University Press, 2008 [available in [print](#) and [electronically](#)]

and

Victor Katz, *A history of mathematics: an introduction*, Pearson New International edition, Pearson, 2014 [available in [print](#) and [electronically](#)]

(College libraries may have earlier editions of the latter, but these do not differ significantly in content as far as this course is concerned, so feel free to use them; the reading lists are given in terms of the 2014 edition, so do please ask if you need help adapting them to earlier editions.)

Other books that might be useful:

Jacqueline Stedall, *The history of mathematics: a very short introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2012 [available in [print](#) and [electronically](#)]

Benjamin Wardhaugh, *How to read historical mathematics*, Princeton University Press, 2010 [available in [print](#) and [electronically](#)]

John Fauvel and Jeremy Gray, *The history of mathematics: a reader*, Macmillan/Open University, 1987 [only available in [print](#)]

June Barrow-Green, Jeremy Gray and Robin Wilson, *The history of mathematics: a source-based approach*, vol. 1, MAA Press, 2019; vol. 2, 2022 [both volumes available in [print](#) but only volume 1 [electronically](#)]

Background reading (ongoing, weeks 1–4):

- Stedall, Chapters 1 and 2
- Katz, Chapters 1–6, 9 and 10

(On the origins of mathematics, ancient Greek mathematics, and the mathematics of mediaeval Europe and the Islamic world.)