History of Mathematics Course Spring 2021:

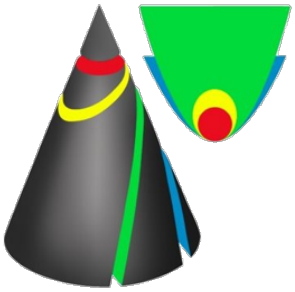
Math 3850/Math 8855: Totally Online

Prerequisites: Math 1970 and Math 2230

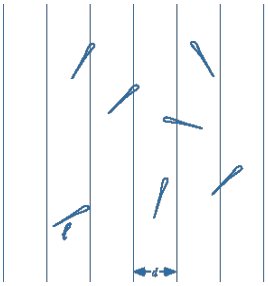
Instructor: Michael Matthews, michaelmatthews@unomaha.edu

**HOW IS THIS CLAY TABLET AN AREA PROBLEM?**


*How did the Persian slice cones to solve polynomial equations?*



***What does a bunch of needles and the French guillotine have to do with calculating pi?***



In this class, you will learn mathematics from a historical perspective rather than history from a mathematical perspective. We will solve problems, learn the associated history, and teach each other what we've learned.

Textbooks (Library has online copies that students can check out). We use portions of each, but not the entire book:

Journey through Genius: The Great Theorems of Mathematics by William Durham, The Math Book by Clifford A. Pickover, Historical Modules for the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics by Victor J. Katz and Karen Dee Michalwicz, 100 Great Problems of Elementary Mathematics: Their History and Solutions by Heinrich Dorrie, translated by David Austin, The Joy of Mathematics by Theoni Pappas, Famous Problems of Elementary Geometry by F. Klein, The Enjoyment of Mathematics by Hans Rademacher and Otto Toeplitz, The Colossal Book of Mathematics by Martin Gardner, and Famous Problems and their Mathematicians by Art Johnson.