

PROJECT TIMELINE

Your term project is an opportunity for you to demonstrate you can learn some mathematics on your own, and communicate what you have learned to others. Although this may seem daunting at first, if you break the process into smaller pieces and work steadily throughout the semester, I think you will be pleasantly surprised at what you can accomplish.

STEPS

1. **Choose a topic.** “Surf” the textbook (see pp. xv-xxiv) to get an overview of possible topics. Check our syllabus to see which ones we will be covering in class. Then make notes on topics that interest you that are not on our syllabus (see list attached). Explore several possibilities further by reading through the appropriate sections, and pare your choices down to a few that most intrigue you. Do not worry about level of difficulty at this point; go for something that really excites you! Bring the topic(s) you’ve chosen to class on **Sept. 22**.
2. After you’ve settled on a topic, begin reading and studying about it. Read the text and try some of the exercises and problems. You may want to do some research beyond the text. Keep a notebook of your reading and work. Make **a list of questions**, and bring them to class on **Oct. 6**. You can also ask questions before and after that, by making an appt. to see me or Eric.
3. Now that you’ve accumulated quite a bit in your notebook, think about how you would communicate what you’ve learned to someone else. I want you to be able to both write and speak about the mathematics you’ve learned. Begin to organize your ideas with an **outline**, and bring this to class on **Oct. 27**. Be prepared to give a short summary of your project to your classmates.
4. Everyone will present their project during a **poster session** on Wed., **Nov. 30** (in the evening) to which we will invite the Bates community. We will pre-view the posters in class on **Nov. 17** and **Nov. 29**, the day before and the day after Thanksgiving break.

That’s it. HAVE FUN!