

Elements

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The title of this lecture series is a conscious repetition of the title of the famous treatise by Euclid. "Elements" is the first book ever in which a mathematical theory, specifically that of elementary geometry, is developed in a precise and complete way. "Elements" are roots of present logic and science at large. For centuries, until late 19th century, "Elements" has been considered a must for educated people, regardless of their particular field of interest.

The lecture series is addressed to a broad academic audience. There is no mathematical knowledge required to follow the course and it will not be tested afterwards. The topics covered in the series include:

- In the gardens of Platonic Academy.
- Socrates, a genius of the antic.
- Euclid, Pythagoras and other great Greek philosophers.
- Numbers, can they be counted?
- Manifestations of geometry in ancient and modern architecture.
- The very many works of Albrecht Durer.
- Is there a way to paint maths?
- The curved shell of the universe.

and more... .

The lectures will be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays, always at 18:00 (sharp!) in the lecture room 114, Department of Mathematics.

Each lecture is independent of the others. It suffices to be present at 50% of the lectures AND to submit a short (3-4 pages) written essay (of course in English) at the end of the lecture series.

The first lecture: November, 19, then

Nov. 20

Nov. 26

Nov. 27

Dec. 3

Dec. 4

Dec. 10

Dec. 11

The essays are due at the latest on Dec. 20, noon (can be delivered electronically).

Paperwork with inscriptions/grading will be done as soon as student offices produce checking cards, i.e. in January.