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## **Workshop**

# **TWO INTRODUCTORY UNIVERSITY COURSES ON THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS**

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Over the past five years I have been involved with the preparation and presentation of two courses at a basic level on the history of mathematics. The first was for interested adults, while the second was for liberal-arts college freshmen in North American Universities. Both courses were based around Marcus du Sautoy's award-winning BBC-Open University television series 'The Story of Maths' and on a booklet that I wrote to accompany this series.

The first course was an Open University 10-point Level 1 Course, designed to 'teach the maths behind the programmes' to adult students studying at home. This course used a 200-page OU booklet that I wrote, and has now been successfully presented a dozen times to a total of about 2000 students. I shall describe the course content and the motivation for producing this course, and also describe the results.

The second had two forms, and was presented as 'total-immersion' courses to first-year liberal-arts students in Western Canada (over 18 days) and in Colorado, USA (over 36 days). Like the Open University course, it was based on Marcus du Sautoy's television programmes and my course notes, but also (in order to emphasize the differences between 'the history of mathematics' and 'the history of mathematicians') on R. Flood and my recent illustrated book 'The Great Mathematicians'. Again, I shall describe and analyse the results of teaching these courses.