Book Review

The motivation for this assignment is that there are a lot of cool, interesting expository books about mathematics, and as part of your general education, you should develop the habit of reading them. This is an opportunity to learn about a mathematician or area of mathematics that you might not be exposed to otherwise.

Here are a few possibilities:

- *The Code Book*
- *The Unimaginable Mathematics of Borges' Library of Babel*
- *Fermat's Enigma*
- *Weapons of Math Destruction*
- *Humble Pi: When Math Goes Wrong in the Real World*
- *The Music of the Primes: Searching to Solve the Greatest Mystery in Mathematics*
- *The Man Who Knew Infinity* (a biography of Srinivasa Ramanujan)
- *The Man Who Loved Only Numbers* (an account of Paul Erdos)/
- *The Improbability Principle: Why Coincidences, Miracles, and Rare Events Happen Every Day*
- *The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail–but Some Don't*

If you're not sure whether or not a book is appropriate for this assignment, please check with me. I've had students find some really interesting books that I wasn't aware of, so I'll be interested to see what you come up with! It is also fine to read a book that is not in English.

This probably does not need to be said, but your book should be one that you have not read before this semester. The important dates to keep in mind:

September 23	Title of book due
October 7	Progress Report due
October 19	Book Review due

Your report should **not** be a summary of the book. Instead, you should give a critique of the book. Here are a few parameters:

- You will want to give a brief one or two page overview of the book that gives the big picture.
- You should address what aspects of the book were done well, which were not, and give specific suggestions that would improve the book.
- Be sure to address the mathematical content of the book. Was it explained well? Was it interesting? Did the exposition want to make you learn more about the area?
- Comment on who you think the appropriate audience for the book is. Could anyone read the book? Does it assume some mathematical background? Do you have to be an expert to enjoy the book?
- Finally, give your opinion on whether or not you would recommend this book to someone else.
- There are no hard-and-fast rules, but I imagine that the review will be a minimum of four to five typed pages.