



The Allegheny College Mathematics Department  
Presents Guest Speaker

# Philip Kutzko

Professor of Mathematics, University of Iowa

## Euclid and Descartes

Henderson Auditorium, Quigley Hall  
Allegheny College

Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 4pm



Statue of Euclid in Oxford  
Source: math open reference.com

Abstract: Mathematics and, in fact, all of the sciences, changed fundamentally in the seventeenth century for reasons that have never been satisfactorily explained. We will contrast the approach to mathematics in the modern era with that found in Euclid by considering the different approaches to two questions: Which regular polygons may be constructed with a straightedge and a compass? Is there an infinite number of prime numbers? We will then consider some of the implications of this fundamental shift for the way that we do mathematics today in the United States.



Descartes  
Source: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Refreshments will be available after the talk.

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For more information, contact Harald Ellers at [hellers@allegheny.edu](mailto:hellers@allegheny.edu).

