MA 111: Paper 2
Flatland

Pick one of the following topics and write a 3 – 4 page paper. You should quote extensively from the book, demonstrating a thorough knowledge of the text. Your paper needs to be well-written, demonstrating good organization, grammar, and spelling. You **must** cite all sources; including the sources of any images or figures used. (It is unlikely that you will need to include any figures.) The paper needs to include significant discussion of the mathematics in, or related to, *Flatland*.

Topics:

1. Mathematics and Social Critique in *Flatland*

   It is not necessary to use mathematics to write satire and it is not necessary to use satire to write a mathematics manual. In this paper, you will address how these two aspects of *Flatland* reinforce or contradict each other. Are both aims of *Flatland* served by this dual purpose?

2. Mathematics and Imagination in *Flatland*

   The role of the imagination in the practice of science was extensively debated in Victorian England. Based on *Flatland*, what are Abbott's views on the proper role of the imagination? How does the mathematical setting of *Flatland* assist him or hinder him in expressing these views in narrative form?

The final draft of your paper is due **by email** on Tuesday, April 20 at 10 PM. You should name your file using your last name and the paper number, for example Taylor-Paper2.doc. Papers may be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.

Preliminary drafts may be submitted by email or in-person on or before **Wednesday, April 14.**