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"Pleading the Fifth: Euclid's Parallel Postulate"

Tuesday, February 12  
11:30am, Glatfelter 212

Geometry was created to solve concrete problems in the lives of ancient people. Euclid of Alexandria first organized it as a rigorous axiomatic system. He based his system on five assumptions. The fifth of these, his fifth postulate, has captured the interests of geometers for thousands of years. I will discuss several different notions of geometry, how they relate to Euclid's Parallel Postulate, and how well they describe the world around us.