

FYSE 1280: Fall 2025
Breaking The Code: The Enigma of Alan Turing

Assignment 1
For Wednesday, September 10

Reading

Read Jack Copeland's 3 page biography of Turing in *The Essential Turing*.

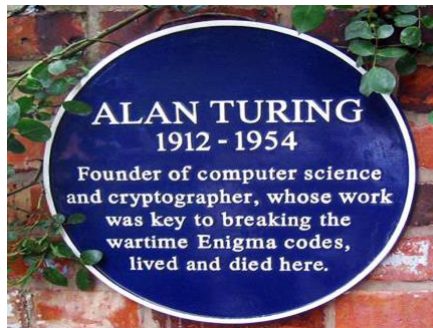
Read the Mactutor biography "Alan Mathison Turing" by J J O'Connor and E F Robertson on line at <https://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Turing/>.

Read Andrew Hodges' short online biography of Alan Turing at <http://www.turing.org.uk/bio/part1.html> and his oration at the unveiling of a plaque marking Turing's home at <http://www.turing.org.uk/bio/oration.html>.

Read Chapter 1: "The Man in the White Suit" in David Leavitt, *The Man Who Knew Too Much: Alan Turing and the Invention of the Computer*. Leavitt may be the unique writer who draws a connection between Alec Guinness, the film *The Man in the White Suit*, and Alan Turing. If you want to get a sense of the film, the trailer is available at <https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=YouTube+%22The+Main+in+the+white+suit%22&ei=UTF-8&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001> and there is a 5 minute excerpt at <https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=YouTube+%22The+Main+in+the+white+suit%22&ei=UTF-8&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001>.

You can buy or rent the entire movie at amazon.com and other vendors if you are keen to watch it. I put a DVD copy on reserve at the Wilson Family Library.

If you do not yet have your own copy of Leavitt's book, there is one on reserve at the Davis Family Library. You can also read chapter 1 [online](#)



Writing

Based on your reading, prepare and submit two or three questions about Turing's life or work you would like to have discussed in our course.

Start a journal in which you can jot down any comments about, reactions to, or questions inspired by the readings you are doing in the course.

Planning

Your first essay will be due on Monday, September 15. Begin outlining your approach to this paper.