

Syllabus for Math 430, *Abstract Algebra*, Fall 2005

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Office Hours: T, Th 10:45-11:45am and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a one semester course of introductory abstract algebra covering groups, rings and applications. We will try to cover Chapters 0-17 of the text at the rate of approximately 1 chapter per week. Prerequisites are either Math 238 or Math 300 and Math 312. This is a proof-based course.

TEXTS: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra*, J. Gallian, Sixth edition (required).

Supplementary Texts: (not required)

A First Course in Abstract Algebra, Fraleigh (undergrad, also used at JMU)

Topics in Algebra, Herstein (advanced undergrad)

Algebra, M. Artin (advanced undergrad)

Abstract Algebra, Dummit and Foote (advanced undergrad/grad - verbose)

Algebra, Hungerford (grad - terse)

GRADING: The grading will be assigned on a 10 point scale: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F below 60.

There will be no curves and no extra credit. I will assign +/- on an individual basis. Points are assigned as follows:

Quizzes (10) - 100 points

Midterm exams (2) - 100 points each

Final exam - 150 points

QUIZZES: There will be a 10 point quiz at the beginning of class each Thursday. This quiz will cover material through Tuesday's class. Quiz questions will be similar (but certainly not limited) to homework questions. The 10 best quiz scores will be kept, and the rest will be dropped. There will be no make up quizzes given.

HOMEWORK: Homework will be assigned, but not collected. Homework, however, is of the utmost importance! You must keep up with the homework, and do it everyday.

There will be opportunities to ask questions about the homework problems at the beginning of each class. However, there may not be time to answer everyone's questions, or go over every homework problem. You are encouraged to work together in groups on the homework problems.

MIDTERMS and FINAL: There will be two midterms during the semester worth 100 points each and a final exam worth 150 points. If you cannot make it to a scheduled exam, you **MUST** contact the instructor **BEFORE** the exam if at all possible, or if an emergency, **WITHIN 24 HOURS** after the exam if you need to schedule a make up exam. Make up exams will only be given for extreme excuses. A doctor's note or some other physical excuse is required.

Final Exam - Thursday December 15, 8:00-10:00am

HONOR CODE You are to abide by the JMU honor code at all times. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Cheating will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.