

MATH 4200: Abstract Algebra I Fall 2015

Lectures: Lockett 134, MWF 8:30 – 9:20

Professor: Karl Mahlburg	TA: TBA
Office: Lockett 228	Office:
Office Hour: W 2:30	Office Hour:
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Website All important course information, including lecture information, homework assignments, and other announcements will be found on the course Moodle page. Most announcements will also be sent by e-mail. Please check it frequently!

Textbook Keith Nicholson, *Introduction to Abstract Algebra, 4th edition*, John Wiley and Sons, 2012.

Content This course introduces fundamental concepts from modern abstract algebra. We will cover Chapters 1 – 4 in the textbook, as well as additional selected material. Topics will include elementary properties of sets, relations, mappings, groups, subgroups, quotient groups, homomorphisms, automorphisms, permutation groups, elementary properties of rings, and polynomials.

Prerequisites You must have completed MATH 2085: Linear Algebra (or have instructor approval) in order to enroll in this course.

Schedule Due to University holidays, this class will **not** be held on Monday, Sep. 7; Friday, Oct. 30; or Friday, Nov. 27. If you are unable to attend the regularly held office hours, you may also schedule an appointment.

Grading Your grade will be based on the weekly homework assignments, midterm Exams, and a cumulative Final Exam. Regular attendance and participation during lectures is also expected. Your grade may be lowered by one full letter for every **three** unexcused absences. Course grades will be weighted as follows:

	Percentage
Problem Sets	30%
3 Midterm Exams	45%
Final Exam	25%

As of Fall 2015, LSU has implemented a \pm grading system. Your course grade will be determined based on your total percentage score as follows:

Grade	Total Course Percentage
A+/A/A-	97%/93%/90%
B+/B/B-	87%/83%/80%
C+/C/C-	77%/73%/70%
D+/D/D-	67%/63%/60%
F	Less than 60%

Homework Homework assignments will be due on most **Fridays** at the beginning of class (8:30), and will be posted on the course website one week in advance. You are expected to complete the problems as thoroughly as possible, though some questions will be open-ended and/or computational. You should expect to spend 4 – 5 hours weekly on homework assignments and reading. If you find that you need significantly more (or less!) time than this, please schedule a meeting with me to discuss your progress.

Homework assignments will be graded based on correctness and completeness, although you will receive detailed feedback on only a small number of problems.

Group Work You are allowed, and even encouraged to work in small groups on homework assignments, subject to the following conditions:

1. You must list the names of all of the other students with whom you discussed the problems at the top of your assignment;
2. You must write up your own solutions using your own words and arguments.

Exams No supplemental materials are allowed during exams, including calculators, computers, class notes, etc. You may not communicate by any means with other students during exams. If you have any conflicts with the scheduled exam times, or have any University-approved special needs, you must inform me *in advance*.

Exam 1	Monday, Sep. 21 (in-class)
Exam 2	Monday, Oct. 19 (in-class)
Exam 3	Monday, Nov. 23 (in-class)
Final Exam	Monday, Dec. 7, 12:30 – 2:30PM

Conduct LSU students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity. Any incidences of suspected cheating on exams and quizzes will be reported directly to the Judicial Affairs Division in the Dean of Students Office; offenses can result in loss of course credit or expulsion from the university. Instances of direct copying on homework assignments will result in loss of credit for **both** students involved.

Scientific calculators and touchscreen or stylus computers are allowed *solely* for note-taking. Cell phones, MP3 players, and all other electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom at any time.