Course: Math 3200 – Polynomials
Time: MWF 9 – 9:50
Instructor: Jon Prewett
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Office Hours: M 10-11, W 12-1, and Th 1-2 also feel free to make an appointment or drop by any time.

Grading:
- 100-90% A
- 89-80% B
- 79-70% C
- 69-60% D
- <60% F

Textbook:

Pre-requisites:
A grade of C or better in Math 2250 – Linear Algebra

Homework:
Homework will be assigned and collected (almost) weekly. Homework is the most important part of this course. Mathematics, especially when it comes to writing proofs, cannot be learned by reading and listening alone. To understand how to read and write proofs, you need to work them out … the more, the better. I encourage you to work together on homework. One way to see if you understand something is to try and explain it. Discuss the problems, trade ideas on solutions. This being said, always make sure you end up writing your own solution. You won’t learn anything copying someone else’s work. Homework is due anytime on the day it is due. There is a box on my office door where homework can be turned in. Reasonably (a day or two) late homework will be accepted with prior notice has long as it does not become a habit.

Exams and final:
There will be two exams and a final. They are worth 25% each. I plan on spacing the exams out about evenly, therefore the first exam will fall around week 6. The exams will consist of a mixture of definition/short answer questions and a few proofs. The proofs will often be either directly from homework, or very similar to homework problems. Late exams will be given for reasonable excuses.

Goals:
The objective in this course is to help you become proficient at reading and writing mathematics. The grammar of mathematics is important in writing something that others can read and understand. A big key is to make sure you write in complete sentences. The vehicle we use in introducing proof writing is polynomials. This topic gives a straightforward way of presenting problems that are somewhat easy to understand. While
this class is pre-requisite for many others in the math department, it is the methods and not necessarily the topics you will be expected to retain.

Course Material:
We will start with some material on basic proof-writing strategies before moving to material in the text. From the text, we will move through chapters 1-3, 6, and 8-16.

Attendance:
I do not make it a habit of taking attendance. At this point in your academic career, I assume you know that you can’t learn the material without being here.

Course Conduct:
As stipulated in the UW code of conduct, you are expected to avoid any behavior that is disruptive to the class (cell phones, paying more attention to what’s going on three rows back than what’s going on in class, etc). If you are disruptive, your instructor may ask you to leave the classroom. In such an eventuality, you will be allowed to return only with the permission of the instructor.

Academic Honesty:
The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Teachers and students should report suspected violations of standards of academic honesty to the instructor, department head, or dean. Other University regulations can be found at:
http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/legal/universityregulations.htm

Additional Help:
Students with disabilities (physical, learning, or psychological) who need modified testing arrangements may arrange for test accommodations by contacting University Disability Support Services at 766-6189.

Changes:
The information in this syllabus is subject to change. If there are changes, they will be announced repeatedly in class.