POLICIES/SYLLABUS

Instructor: Eric Moorhouse, Ross Hall 63 = 216, phone 766-4394

Meets: TR 11:00am–12:15pm, Engineering 1044

Prerequisites: Math 2800; and grade of C or better in Math 2250 (Elementary Linear Algebra) or concurrent registration in Math 2250

Office Hours: M 11–11:50 am; TR 10–10:50 am; W 9–9:50 am. In addition to my regularly scheduled office hours, please feel free to see me at other times, either by appointment or at other times if I am not busy. My current schedule is posted at http://www.uwyo.edu/moorhouse/schedule.html


Grading Scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Test 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Participation:

The participation component of the grade will be based on your regular attendance timely arrival for class sessions, in addition to participation during class, including asking and answering questions and evident engagement in class activity.

Homework:

Homework is the most vital part of this course. Mathematics, more than most subjects, is one which you learn not by listening and absorbing, but by trying out yourself. The learning of mathematics is also more sequential than that of other subjects … so all the more need to be regular in doing problems yourself! Homework assignments will be
assigned approximately once per week, and will be submitted to me on the specified due date (usually after 2–3 classes), at the end of class.

It is fine for you to discuss the homework with other students. However, please do not copy anyone else's work directly. Copying may adversely affect your grade; but more importantly, of course, you won't be adequately preparing yourself for the tests in this way.

**Tests:**

We will have two 50-minute test during class time, and one final exam, all of which are ‘closed book’; however, you will be permitted to use a handheld calculator and one ‘cheat sheet’ (one 8½×11 inch sheet with information written on one side in your own handwriting). Sharing of calculators or other aids during tests and the exam, is not permitted. No other devices are permitted. Cell phones must be switched off (and in particular cannot be used as calculators). The two tests will each cover a specified unit of material only, but the final exam will be comprehensive. The final exam is tentatively scheduled for 10:15 am–12:15 pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, in our usual lecture room (Engineering 1044).

Make-up tests for those who miss tests, will only be granted in cases of verifiable illness or the most extreme circumstances (at my discretion). Please contact me in advance of such a situation if possible, or leave a message with the Math Department (766-4221). Even in legitimate cases, the make-up test will be harder than the original test.

**MATH 3500 Website:**

Course-related announcements, links and handouts will be posted at http://www.uwyo.edu/moorhouse/courses/3500/

**The Algebra Sequence (Math 3500/4510/4520):**

Math 3500 (Algebra I: Introduction to Rings and Proofs) is the beginning of a three-course algebra sequence that continues with Math 4510 (Algebra II: Introduction to Groups) and Math 4520 (Algebra III; Topics in Abstract Algebra). These courses cover (roughly) the theory of rings, groups and fields, respectively—the three classes of algebraic structures which form the cornerstone of modern algebra. In this first course of the sequence, special attention is devoted to developing the student’s skills in formal mathematical thinking and communication, including the reading and writing of proofs.

**Course Content:**

Topics covered include Chapters I–IV of the textbook starting with a quick-start guide to mathematical proofs, and proceeding with the basic theory of rings.