

MT311: Algebraic I Fall 2013

Instructor: Dawei Chen, 266 Carney Hall, dawei.chen@bc.edu

Class time and location: MWF 12–12:50, Fulton 235.

Office hours: M 1:30-3pm, W 3-4:30pm (tentative)

Textbook: I. N. Herstein, Topics in Algebra, 2nd ed.

Prerequisites: MT210 Linear Algebra and MT216 Introduction to Abstract Mathematics.

Course description: This course is for BS candidates. This is the first of a two-semester sequence. This semester we will study Groups and Rings, covering approximately Chapters 2 and 3 in the textbook. Time permitting we will also get through part of Chapter 4 on Linear Algebra.

Homework: Written homework will be assigned after each lecture and graded weekly. Homework solutions must be submitted in **LaTeX** every Friday in class (from Friday, Sep 13). If your homework is submitted in handwriting, you will get points off. LaTeX is a powerful typesetting software for mathematical writings. Please consult me if you do not know how to use LaTeX. It is not hard to learn. You are encouraged to work together on the homework, but the solutions you hand in should be in your own words.

Exam: There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. They will be in-class exams. The final exam will be comprehensive. Please do not make travel plans during the exams. Tentative dates of the exams:

Midterms: Wednesdays, Oct 9 and Nov 13, in class.

Final: Saturday, Dec 14 at 9:00am.

Grade: Your final grade will be based on 10% homework, 20% each midterm, 50% final.

Academic integrity: Many people find discussing problems with others

to be the best, easiest, most efficient and most pleasant way to learn mathematics. You are permitted and encouraged to do this! Nevertheless, you must write up all the homework solutions by yourself only. Copying solutions from someone or somewhere else is not only intellectually dishonest but it also undermines the educational process. If you are caught cheating on a problem set, you will receive **zero** for that set. BC's policy on academic integrity can be found at www.bc.edu/integrity.

Special need: If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu, in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.