MT 310: Introduction to Abstract Algebra
Syllabus
Spring 2015

Updated 3/9: The first midterm got rescheduled for Friday, 2/20, and the second midterm will be rescheduled for Friday, 3/27.

Professor: Josh Greene
Contact: email: joshua.greene@bc.edu, office phone: 617-552-1007
Office: Carney 264
Office hours: W 1:00-2:30pm, Th 2:15-3:45pm, and by appointment.
Class time: MWF 9-9:50am, 1/12 -4/30. No class 1/19 (MLK), 3/2-6 (Spring Break), 4/6 (Good Friday), 4/20 (Patriots’ Day)
Class location: Fulton 110
Course grader: TBA
Course webpage: https://www2.bc.edu/joshua-e-greene/MT445S14/coursepage.html
Course description: From the course catalog:
“This course studies four fundamental algebraic structures: groups, including subgroups, cyclic groups, permutation groups, symmetry groups and Lagrange’s Theorem; rings, including subrings, integral domains, and unique factorization domains; polynomials, including a discussion of unique factorization and methods for finding roots; and fields, introducing the basic ideas of field extensions and ruler and compass constructions.”
References: The required text for the course:
I acknowledge that it is quite expensive, but I believe you will find that it is an excellent book!
Grading format:
• Homework (30%). Problem sets will be assigned and collected on a weekly basis. Assignments will appear on my website, typically around the end of a given week or that weekend, and I will alert you when a new one gets posted. It will be due at the beginning of class on Friday of the following week, unless otherwise noted. No late work is accepted. You should work on the problem set using what you learned from class, the book (or other indicated sources), and from your peers. To emphasize: collaboration with your peers is permitted and encouraged! However, you must write up your homework on your own, and you are not permitted to read another student’s write-up nor solutions from other sources. Copying from your peers, students who have taken the course in past years, or other sources will result in a score of zero and represent a breach of academic integrity (see below).
• Midterms (15% apiece) Two in-class midterms will take place Friday, 2/20 and Friday, 3/27. The class before each will contain a very brief review.
• Final (30%) According to the registrar’s website: Thursday, 5/7, 12:30-3:30pm.
Please take a moment to read this:
A missed exam, unless in case of dire emergency, will result in a score of zero. 

*No make-up exams!*

- **Participation (10%)** Your active participation will be vital for the development of the course! If you are typically shy during class, or if you prefer to learn all the material we will cover from books and online notes (not advised), please make an effort for me to see you engaged somehow, either by venturing occasional answers, visiting office hours, or emailing me with questions/comments.

Dramatic improvement or decline over the course of the semester may alter the outcome of the final grade. For example, if you perform poorly on the first midterm but recover, improve on the second, and do excellently on the final, then the later exams will carry greater weight towards the end of raising your grade. On the other hand, if you perform reasonably on the first midterm, but decline precipitously and indicate little mastery of the material on the final exam, then your later exams will carry greater weight towards the end of lowering your grade.

**Disabilities:** Please inform me if you have special needs. At the request of Provost Quigley:

“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.”

**Academic Integrity:** Please visit www.bc.edu/integrity.