SYLLABUS OF MATH-113 INTRODUCTION TO ABSTRACT ALGEBRA
SPRING 2020 SECTION 003

Basic Information

Instructor: Semeon Artamonov artamonov@berkeley.edu

Lectures: Tuesday-Thursday 11:00AM-12:30PM (Berkeley time) in Etcheverry 3111

Textbook: John B. Fraleigh "A First Course in Abstract Algebra", 7th edition, ISBN 978-1-292-02496-7

Office hours: Tuesday-Thursday 12:40PM-2:10PM (or by Appointment) at 1055 Evans Hall

Course website: https://math.berkeley.edu/~art/S20-Math-113.html

Homework

Homework assignments will be given on Thursdays and normally will be due by the beginning of the class on the following Thursday. A random subset of problems from each assignment will be graded and the average homework grade will contribute to the total grade. For each student I will drop the two lowest homework grades from taking the average at the end of the semester. You have the following options to submit your homework:

- In class on the due date.
- If your homework is **typed in Latex**, you can submit it on bcourses by 5PM on the due date. Scanned versions will not be accepted on bcourses.

Late homework assignments will not be accepted, if you have to miss a class you, should submit your homework either in class before the due date or electronically on bcourses.

Reasonable use of external sources such as: other textbooks, Stack Exchange, or Wikipedia is allowed when working on homework assignments only if you explicitly mention all external sources used. Same rules apply for discussion of homework problems with your peers. In all cases, it is expected that the final work will your own and copying solutions from someone else or using solution manuals constitutes a direct violation of the University Honor Code.

Please keep in mind, that the main purpose of the homework assignment is to practice solving problems independently and receive an accurate feedback on your progress, so it is highly recommended to attack all problems first without any use of external sources. It is much better to learn from your mistakes during Homework, rather than during Midterms or Final.

Exams

All exams are closed book with no notes. Below you can find the schedule:
Midterm I: Thursday, February 27 (in class)
Midterm II: Tuesday, March 31 (in class)
Final Exam: Thursday, May 14 at 8:00AM (to be confirmed in March)

Missing the final exam generally implies failing the course. Please double check https://registrar.berkeley.edu/scheduling/academic-scheduling/final-exam-guide-schedules to make sure that you have no final exam conflicts, back-to-back exams etc., and switch sections if necessary. It is entirely your responsibility to organize your schedule in such a way that you will have enough time between the exams.

In case of an emergency during the exam (e.g. fire alarm, earthquake), leave your exams facing down on the table and follow the emergency instructions. You are not allowed to take the exam materials with you when evacuating.

GRADES

Your total score will be calculated by the following formula:

$$(1) \qquad T = \max\left(\frac{15H + 20M_1 + 20M_2 + 45F}{100}, \frac{20H + 30M_1 + 50F}{100}, \frac{20H + 25M_2 + 50F}{100}, \frac{25H + 55F}{100}\right),$$

where $H, M_1, M_2, F \in [0,1]$ stand for your normalized scores for the Homework, Midterm I, Midterm II, and Final respectively. If you have a proper reason to miss a midterm, please e-mail me at least one week before the exam, and your grade will be rescaled with no penalties. In order to pass the course you need to have the total score 60% or higher ($T \geqslant 0.6$).

Missing final exam implies failing the course, or, in some cases, receiving an "I" (incomplete grade). The cutoffs between the passing letter grades will be determined using historical averages as a guideline.

READING

Outside reading is an essential part of the course, on the course page you will find reading assignments for each week. It is crucially important to read the corresponding sections of the textbook within a week after each lecture.