

MATH 251 - Abstract Algebra - Spring '23

Lecturer: Puck Rombach (*puck.rombach@uvm.edu*)

Texts: Dummit and Foote, Abstract Algebra, 3rd Edition.

Overview

The purpose of this course is to introduce the theory of abstract algebra. In particular, group theory. A group is a fundamental mathematical structure that arises in almost every area of mathematics, and has many applications in other sciences. This is a theory-heavy course, and students will become strong at proof-writing.

Homework

The class notes contain exercises, some of which you will work on collaboratively in class. You then submit your own version of the Homework by Tuesday (beginning of class) of the next week. Each Homework is graded as 0, 1/2 or 1 credit.

Attendance

Attendance is important for you to be successful in this course. Please attend all lectures if possible and let me know when you will be absent.

Office Hours and Appointments

There will be regularly scheduled office hours, but I am available for drop-ins or appointments outside of office hours as well, depending on my schedule. I want you to do well in this class and checking in with me early can make a big difference.

Flexibility and accommodations

If you cannot make an occasional deadline due to health or personal reasons, just ask and I'll give you an extension, no questions asked. If you encounter continuing barriers, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can determine if there is a design adjustment that can be made or if an accommodation might be needed. I am always happy to consider creative solutions as long as they do not compromise the intent of the assessment or learning activity.

Grading

Grades are determined as follows. Each of the 15 Homework sets is worth 1 credit if completed satisfactorily. Grades are determined as follows: 13 credits → A, 10 credits → B, 7 credits → C.