

MATH 531 WINTER/SPRING 2003

Class Meetings: TuTh 2:00-3:15 pm in EMS E220
[Spring break March 16-23; Last class May 8; Final May 12]

Instructor: Allen Bell, EMS E449, 229-4233; e-mail adbell@uwm.edu

Web Page: <http://www.uwm.edu/~adbell/> — then follow the link for Math 531.

Text and Topics: *Contemporary Abstract Algebra* by Joseph Gallian.

We will cover roughly Chapters 0–18 (basics of groups & rings), although we may not do them in exact order and we may supplement them or skip some.

Office Hours: TuTh between 3:20 and 4:55; immediately before class; other times by appointment. You can also talk to me any time you can find me in my office.

All times are subject to change and to cancellation on some days due to other duties. I may update this information soon.

Prerequisites: The main prerequisite for this class is Math 241/341 - an introduction to proofs and the formal language of mathematics. You will be expected to do many proofs on homework and exams.

Grades: Your grade will be based on the examinations, quizzes, homework, and class participation. The grading scale will be determined by the class performance on the exams (i.e., there will be a curve). The final exam grade will count approximately 30-35% of your course grade; the other exams and quizzes together roughly 45-50%, and the homework and in-class work and participation will make up the remainder.

Exams: There will be an exam after we've finished Chapter 6 or 7. There will be a second exam on group theory. There may be quizzes. I will say more about the exams and quizzes (dates, length, etc.) as the semester progresses. The final exam will take place from 3-5 pm on Monday, May 12. It will be comprehensive, although it may emphasize ring theory.

There will be *no* make-up exams, and the final exam cannot be re-scheduled. If you cannot come to an exam for a very good reason, we may be able to make some kind of arrangement *if* you let me know in advance: you may call me or leave a message at the Mathematics office, 229-4836.

Homework: The best way to learn the material in this course is to (1) read actively, that is, work things out for yourself as you read, and (2) work as many problems as possible.

Most homework will not be collected, but you should work as many problems in the problem sets as you can. You are free to discuss homework among yourselves, *except* homework that is to be handed in for a grade, but please remember: if you don't do it yourself, you won't learn it.

Other: If you have any special requirements or concerns regarding this course, please let me know as soon as possible. Friday, March 14 is the last day to drop the class (with a W on your transcript) without special approvals.